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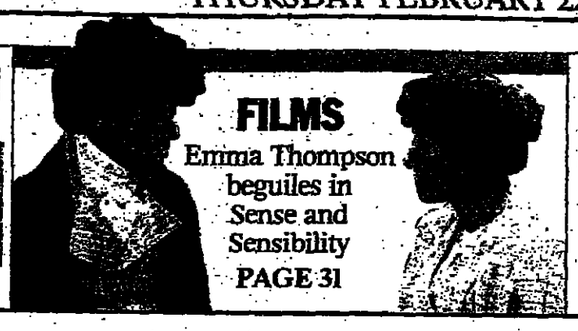
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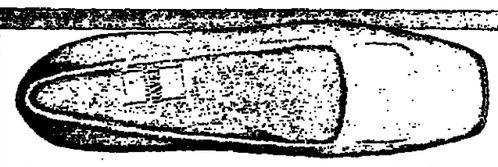
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Labour switches to 'Tessa' system

Blair scraps training levy on firms

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR is to ditch Labour's longstanding policy of imposing a compulsory training levy on employers and replace it with tax incentives to encourage firms to improve workers' skills.

He also intends to introduce "training Tessas" under which individuals would get tax relief on savings set aside expressly for recognised courses.

Mr Blair is anxious to remove any policy which smacks of a "tax on jobs" – a charge frequently levelled at Labour by the Government and repeated by John Major only last week. The compulsory training levy, much cherished by the Left, fell firmly into that category.

At the last election the party's manifesto said that all employers would be required to invest a minimum amount on training or pay a sum to a national pool. The sum was not spelt out, but previous papers suggested about 1.5 per cent of the payroll.

Now Mr. Blair and his education and employment spokesman, David Blunkett, want to replace that idea with incentives for both employers and workers, and they will announce the new approach next month.

Under the new "skills revolution", everyone would have a legal right to a "learning entitlement" from the State and be able to open a "training Tessa". Contributions to the account would be subject to tax relief, so long as the money was used only for training courses.

Employers would also get tax relief for contributing to the account and other incentives – yet to be finalised – for providing in-house training or for sending staff on courses relevant to the job. One option would be to provide state subsidies for existing courses.

The proposed policy shift has been hotly debated within the party for the past year. Some senior party figures are reluctant to drop the plan and trade unionists will also be alarmed by the move. Mr Blunkett intends to assure them that if the new plan failed, a "modernised" compulsory levy would be introduced after three or four years.

The latest draft paper, details of which have been leaked to *The Times*, says: "In government we will take a period of time in which to test and measure the effectiveness of those incentives before we reconsider whether basic entitlement needs to be underpinned by further statutory provision." If national training targets were not reached, the policy would be reviewed again.

Labour's employment team has met employers' organisations, including the Confederation of British Industry, who have made clear that firms are ready to increase training, with a bit of extra help. "A levy is not necessary if the goodwill is there," one party source said.

The draft paper makes clear, however, that the political climate has to be changed to encourage better skills. "We will introduce a new culture of government which will set training, learning and skills at the top of the political agenda," it says. "We believe the Government has the responsibility to set the framework for a skills revolution and to play a role in making it happen."

Party sources argued that several firms managed to avoid the training levy because their payroll was too low, or they employed too few people. "The old levy system was ineffective. Employers just spent their time trying to get round it," a source said. He also argued that the labour market had changed significantly in recent years with many more small and medium-sized companies, so policy needed to be adapted.

The new policy has been drawn up by Stephen Byers, recently appointed to the shadow education and employment team from the whips' office. Mr Byers, a high-flyer from the 1992 intake, has produced a number of drafts of his report over the past six weeks. The Treasury team are now looking at the best way of providing fiscal incentives for employers, without added costs to the Exchequer.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, has made clear that any start-up costs will have to be found by targeting existing resources more effectively. One option is to drop some of the existing training schemes which have not been effective. The final report, which will go to the party's economic commission in the middle of next month, will be published towards the end of March.

JOHN GILES/PA



The Princess arrives at a Lahore restaurant with Jemima Imran Khan last night

Controversy welcomes Princess

By Alan Hamilton

THE Princess of Wales arrived in Pakistan yesterday on a private visit that is already the subject of with political debate.

Dressed in a pink version of the traditional national costume of *shalwar kameez* – loose-fitting trousers and long shirt – the Princess landed in Lahore in a private jet owned by Sir James Goldsmith, the financier whose daughter Jemima is married to Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricket captain. She told local reporters that the sole purpose of her trip was to help to raise funds for Imran's cancer hospital.

But controversy greeted her, with local newspapers pointing out that Imran had declared himself a political opponent of Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister. "Princess Diana's sojourn is bound to be seen out of the context of the cancer hospital and read in line with Imran Khan's political ambition," the local English-language daily, *The News*, claimed. The Princess told one newspaper: "I work for social welfare and my visit is only for this purpose." Buckingham Palace distanced itself from the visit, saying it was entirely private.

Sea Empress pulled to safety as oil slick spreads

By John Young and Andrew Pierce

SALVAGE experts freed the stricken oil tanker *Sea Empress* from the rocks at Milford Haven last night and towed her to a safer anchorage after a six-day emergency that had threatened to become Britain's worst environmental catastrophe.

A flotilla of 12 tugs fanning round the vessel managed to haul her away from St Ann's Head, Pembrokeshire, where she had spewed 65,000 tonnes of oil into the sea.

Milford Haven coastguards said the vessel was moving slowly after a rescue operation fraught with difficulty and recrimination. "So far, so good. It looks like a successful operation to get her off," a spokesman said. "We are delighted the first stage, to free the vessel from the rocks, has been successful."

The tugs, with their 750 tonnes of pulling power, got to work in driving rain but calm sea conditions ready for the attempt to float the tanker at high tide and tow her to a disused jetty at Milford Haven, where what remains of her cargo will be offloaded on to a smaller tanker. Booms were in place there to prevent further spillage from the *Sea Empress*'s ruptured tanks once she had docked.

Two French and two Dutch vessels meanwhile joined British ships fitted with oil dispersal equipment trying to break up the giant slicks and about 140 tonnes of chemicals were sprayed from aircraft. The biggest slick is about 12 miles long, involving up to 10,000 tonnes of oil, while the smaller slicks were being tackled along a 25-mile front off Milford Haven and halfway across Carmarthen Bay.

The coastguards praised the amazing bravery of the salvers and said that the Dutch in particular had risked life and limb to save the *Sea Empress* and prevent disaster.

By the time the tanker was refloated, the oil was threatening catastrophe for the wildlife and bird reserves on the islands of Skomer and Skokholm near by. The National Trust also said that it was facing a serious threat to its beaches on the Gower Peninsular. More oil was expected to pollute a huge area of mud flats and salt marsh, the home of 12,000 wildfowl and 30,000 waders. Peter Mitchell, the trust's regional director, said: "Whole communities are under threat."

Conservationists, wildlife experts and the Labour Party accused the Government of ignoring a series of disaster warnings. And Lord Donaldson of Lymington expressed regret that it had failed to act on his recommendation after the Braer spillage of 1993 that extra salvage tugs, capable of handling emergencies, should be provided for Wales.

Graham Allen, the Shadow Transport Minister, accused the Government of turning an accident into a disaster and highlighted the absence of suitably powered salvage tugs in the region which could have moved the *Sea Empress* early on. As helicopters flew in equipment to increase the ship's buoyancy to maximum levels, Mr Allen said: "This action should have begun on Friday and vessels could have been summoned from other European countries."

But Lord Goschen, the Shipping Minister, insisted that every piece of salvage equipment had been made available, adding that it was was not financially practical to have such equipment standing by at every major oil terminal.

Stricken tanker, pages 6 & 7
Nigel Hawkes, page 18

Hopes rising for bank rates cut

Hopes of a cut in interest rates next month rose yesterday after figures were released showing a 0.6 per cent decline in retail sales in January, although the annual trend is still up. The minutes of January's meeting between the Government and the Bank of England showed the Bank was opposed only to the timing of last month's cut. Page 23

EU seeks to drop national veto

The European Commission put itself on collision course with Britain yesterday by giving outline approval to proposals demanding the end to the national veto in almost all areas of EU business. It argues that majority voting is the only way to avoid paralysis of the union. Page 4

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'Child killers' blow to Howard

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent and Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Home Secretary will be forced to hand over his powers to detain child killers indefinitely after the Government was unanimously condemned by the European Court of Human Rights yesterday.

The decision will mean that the two boys, who killed the toddler James Bulger could be released after serving their 15-year minimum sentence. To hold young killers without any scrutiny by the courts was a violation of human rights, the judges at Strasbourg said.

Senior Conservatives last night renewed calls for Britain to pull out of the European Convention on Human Rights after the rebuff for Michael Howard. But the Home Secretary is expected to resist the calls led by Sir Ivan Lawrence, chairman of the Home Affairs Committee, for the incorporation of the convention into British law. Sir Ivan said: "I think people are getting a little fed up with being told what to do by foreign courts. The issue is whether the Home Secretary has the right to decide what part of the additional sentence should be served in order to protect the public."

The European Court judgment also re-opens the debate about the Home Secretary's powers to decide on the release of murderers generally, adults as well as children; and to fix their sentences.

The court, in a case brought by two men now in their 30s, who have been detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure for murder in their teens, said that their date of release should not be decided by the Home Secretary.

Instead of the indefinite detention at Her Majesty's Pleasure – a system brought in nearly a century ago – the judges said there should be an independent court-like body where those held can make representations.

At the same time, yesterday's ruling prompted a fresh row over the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights, with calls from MPs in all parties for the Government to put an end to such rulings by enshrining the human rights convention into British law.

Yesterday the European Court found that Abed Hussain, from Dewsbury, West Yorkshire and Prem Singh, from the Bradford area, had their rights violated in that they were unable to have the lawfulness of their detention reviewed by a court. They were awarded £19,000 and £13,000 respectively in compensation for legal costs and expenses.

There are a total of 235 juveniles held at Her Majesty's Pleasure. Three are in local authority secure accommodation, 49 are in young offender institutions (for those over 17) and 189 are in the adult prison system. Last

Continued on page 2, col 1



"I'm behind bars and I haven't even done anything"

Bruce Anderson, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Dole fights 'for soul of the party'

By Our Foreign Staff

ROBERT DOLE, beaten into second place by Pat Buchanan in Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, said it was now a "race between the mainstream and the extreme" fringes of the Republican party.

But Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor who finished third, demanded that Mr Dole quit the presidential race so that mainstream Republicans could unite behind him and defeat Mr Buchanan's protectionist and isolationist populism.

Mr Dole ignored the call and claimed he was now in a battle with Mr Buchanan for "the soul of the party".

Party in shock, page 12
William Rees-Mogg, page 18
Leading article, page 19



Family bans IRA from London bus bomber's funeral

By Nicholas Watt

THE family of Ed O'Brien, the IRA terrorist who blew himself up in the Aldwych bus bombing, yesterday condemned the IRA and extended their sympathy to the victims of the attack.

Miley and Margo O'Brien, from the Co Wexford market town of Gorey, said they did not know their son was an IRA member and told the terrorists to keep away from his funeral.

Their comments came as the Irish Army was called in to bolster security patrols around Dublin after the collapse of the IRA ceasefire. Roving armed checkpoints have been introduced around the Irish capital amid fears that loyalists will target Dublin if they end their own ceasefire in response to the renewed IRA bombing.

O'Brien's parents expressed shock at the IRA bombing in a statement read out by Michael Cullen, their solicitor. He said: "The O'Brien family wish to express their deep-felt sorrow for those injured and the families of those injured in the explosion on Sunday."

Mr Cullen added that the family had no connection with paramilitaries and that Ed O'Brien had not been involved with the IRA when he lived in Gorey. "The O'Brien family unreservedly condemn all paramilitary organisations and wish to have nothing to do with such organisations. They do not want any paramilitary involvement in the funeral of their son."

The IRA last night confirmed that O'Brien was a member. The admission was made in a statement telephoned to RTE, the Irish Republic's broadcasting network.

Father Walter Forde, the local curate, who knows the O'Brien family, said: "The news has been greeted with sadness and great surprise. There were very strongly expressed feelings [in Gorey] of revulsion for the IRA godfathers who recruit impressionable young people into violent activity."

His comments came as John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, launched a stinging attack on the IRA. He told the Dail: "Concern has to remain about the fact that apparently through the ceasefire the IRA's military structures were maintained fully in operational order, punishment beatings were undertaken and the entire organisation was kept on a military footing."

Bomber's hometown, page 3
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Evans above! What strong views on teaching standards


Evans: refreshing

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

"GET stuffed" may not be the sort of expression you expect to hear MPs bandying about in the Chamber, but then David Evans is not the sort of man you expect to see as an MP. The language occurred, of course, during Education Questions. Mr Evans was speaking for himself yesterday, though he often claims to voice his wife Janice's thoughts. He was concerned about standards of teaching in schools.

Opinions are divided about David J. Evans (C, Welwyn, Hatfield). Some think him a ludicrous bundle of noisy Cockney buffoonery. Others disagree, defending him as a refreshing change from the manicured mediocrity of his parliamentary colleagues. Your sketchwriter's view is that Mr Evans is a ludicrous bundle of noisy Cockney bufoonery *and* a refreshing change. His daughter, a singer, has just brought out a CD, *Amanda Evans Alone*, which is by all accounts excellent, showing a thoughtful, soulful talent. Inherited from Janice.

David Evans Alone was different. His Question yesterday to Education ministers was listed 14th: MPs barely reached it before time was up. Evans had the first 55 minutes preparing himself for the moment, bouncing gently, then with increasing violence, on his seat, his face turning slowly from his usual pale pink, through mid-pink to hot pink. As Question 13 closed and his moment neared, Evans's features reached the shade you might expect to see on an exceptionally ardent baboon's bottom.

"David Evans!" called Madam Speaker. To say that Mr Evans "stood up" would be to mislead. He rises as though from an unseen bouncy castle beneath. He defies gravity: a defiance the more audacious when you note his size. Mr Evans wanted to know what plans the Secretary of State had to sack bad schoolteachers.

"Most teachers," he declared, "are absolutely excellent." From Evans this was shockingly conciliatory, and we waited for the punch. "BUT," yelled the MP, "a recent sur-vye ..."

This pronounciation of survey reminds us of the (apparently true) story about another Cockney, the late Lord Bottomley, who as a Labour MP was sent to Southern Rhodesia by the then Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, to consult the Matabele tribal chiefs. All assembled in traditional dress, in a huge tent in the African bush, to hear him. Bottomley was to open his remarks with "we are gathered here today ..."

"We are gathered here," he declared, beaming, "to die". The chiefs assumed an ambush and rushed screaming from the tent.

... but back to Mr Evans, who now quoted a survey alleging there were "fifteen thousand bad teachers", (then, hastily) "employed by the Labour Party". It was "loony Left councils" who hired these teachers, he added. But "'Arriet 'Arman sent 'er son to a grammah school": proof that what "that lot over there" (Labour) were saying to the voters was ... (he paused for breath, his face now puce) "*Get stuffed!*"

Miss Boothroyd's tremor registered 4 on the Richter scale. Evans subsided suddenly, before she could fell him. You could almost say he ducked.

By chance, the next question, from his colleague, John Butcher (C, Coventry SW), was about the Better English Campaign. With implied horror Butcher quoted a BBC sports commentator: "The boy done great." Catching the phrase, Evans looked chuffed.

James Paice, a minister, thought good English was the key. "Nobody," he cooed, "is beyond redemption".

Nobody?

Ruling by European Court of Human Rights prompts challenge to Michael Howard

Killers celebrate success after lengthy campaign

By Adrian Lee

THE two men at the centre of yesterday's rulings by the European Court of Human Rights were convicted of murder in the 1970s, when they were teenagers. Abid Hussain and Prem Singh heard of the rulings at their prisons and later told legal representatives of their delight at the victory after years of campaigning.

Hussain, 33, who was convicted in 1978 of murdering his 23-month-old brother Mushtaq, is at Lindholme prison, South Yorkshire. During his trial at Leeds Crown Court he was described by the judge as "cruel, unfeeling and a dangerous person".

The jury was told that Hussain was caring for his brother while their mother was ill. The child was admitted to hospital with brain injuries, consistent with those suffered by a punch-drunk boxer whose head had been subjected to years of violent blows. The child died despite surgery.

Hussain, who lived in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, was said to have told his father: "I hit him. I lost my temper. I kicked him as well." Hussain denied making the statement but was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

Hussain's family have supported both his campaign in the European court and a fight to clear his name. He was represented by the pressure group Justice. Kate Akester, the organisation's legal officer, spoke to him yesterday. She said: "All he knows is what he has heard on the radio but he is very pleased. He will be considered for a parole board later this year.

"He is still very much in touch with his father, mother and brothers and sisters and they are supporting him. But he is pretty adamant they don't want to get involved in talking about the ruling."

Hussain had begun studying engineering on a day release course in Sheffield. If he is freed he plans to resume his studies.

Singh, 38, from Bradford, is being held at Wakefield prison in West Yorkshire. He was convicted of the murder in 1972 of Edith Booth, a 72-year-old disabled spinster. Miss Booth, known as the rose lady because of her immaculate garden, was sexually assaulted and stabbed before her body was dragged into a coal cellar.

The murder was one of Bradford's most notorious crimes. At one stage 100 police officers were involved in the hunt for the killer of Miss Booth, who organised singsongs at her local Methodist hall.

Leeds Crown Court was told that Singh, a former next door neighbour, had slipped away from a school cross-country run to carry out the killing. The motive was robbery and Singh was later seen with a radio believed to have belonged to the victim.

He, too, was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure, although he was released on licence in 1990. He was recalled in 1991 following his arrest on charges of fraud and threatening behaviour. Although the charges were dropped, the parole board at first refused to recommend his further release. When it did so in 1994 the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, rejected the recommendation. His decision was later criticised at the High Court by Lord Justice Pill, who said the reasoning was "well below the standard which an applicant is entitled to expect".

Rodney King, Singh's solicitor, said yesterday that his client was "thrilled" by the judgment. "It is a major success for him. He is due to be released on March 18 but he saw this as a case of carrying the flag for others."

The Prison Service refused to allow either man to give interviews yesterday.


Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, both in secure units in northern England

Child killers ruling

Continued from page 1

night the mother of James Bulger made a personal appeal to the Home Secretary and the public to help her to fight the ruling which could lead to the early release of his two schoolboy killers. Denise Bulger, 28, said she was "bitterly disappointed".

Robert Thompson and Jon Venables were both aged ten when they abducted and murdered two-year-old James on an isolated railway track in Walton, Liverpool in 1993. The trial judge recommended an eight-year sentence, with the Lord Chief Justice recommending 10 years. Michael Howard imposed a 15-year minimum sentence after considering representations, including a 300,000-signature petition calling for the boys to stay in prison for life.

Justice, the all-party law reform group which brought the Euro-case, welcomed the ruling. Anne Owers, Justice director, said that independent oral hearings were a "fairer" way of deciding on a juvenile's release. The decision does not deal directly with the Home Secretary's powers to set the sentence in the first place — the "tariff" — only the release date, she added. But the court's arguments that sentences should be subject to judicial control, like discretionary life sentences, applied equally to tariff-setting.

"In our view it is only a matter of time before that, too, is held to be in breach of the European Convention." She called on the Home Office to legislate to comply with the ruling and "take away all the Home Secretary's powers to decide on the length of juvenile detention periods, and leave these decisions to the courts."

In a statement yesterday Mr Howard said the Government was "disappointed that the court has found against the current procedure for deciding on release for those detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure" and would "carefully consider the implications". But, he added, the procedures, which have been in place since 1908, "work well". "The Government is committed to ensuring that those who are convicted of the uniquely heinous crime of murder are punished appropriately," he said.

There will now be a change in procedure, probably bringing the review of juveniles into line with the procedures for discretionary life prisoners. Under this, a panel of the Parole Board, chaired by a judge, reviews a case when the prisoner has served the minimum period for punishment and decides if he or she is safe to be released and makes recommendations to the Home Secretary which are binding.

Bruce Anderson, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Lawyers of Bulger pair contest 15-year jail term

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

MICHAEL HOWARD is to be challenged over his decision to set a 15-year minimum jail term for the child murderers of James Bulger. Lawyers for Jon Venables and Robert Thompson are planning to bring High Court proceedings in April against the Home Secretary.

They will contest Mr Howard's decision to increase the term to be served by the two boys for "deterrence and retribution" to 15 years. Mr Justice Morland, the trial judge, recommended a minimum eight years. Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, increased that to ten years.

Yesterday's ruling in Strasbourg, in which the nine judges of the European Court said it was a violation of human rights to hold young killers without any scrutiny by the courts, does not overturn the 15-year minimum term imposed by Mr Howard. But if he loses the challenge on the tariff to be heard later this year, Venables and Thompson, now aged 12, could be released early.


James Bulger: abducted and killed at age of two

Denise Bulger, mother of James, who was two at the time of his death, yesterday demanded that the jailed boys remain in custody for the rest of their lives. "Thompson and Venables took a life and they should do life themselves," she said. Mrs Bulger added: "I don't think it is right that the European courts should interfere in British justice."

But Ralph Bulger, father of James, had no comment on the matter. Rex Makin, his solicitor said: "In the long run it will be an advantage to have this matter resolved once and for all so the grieved and bereaved should not be subject to constant re-activation."

Venables and Thompson were ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure at Preston Crown Court in November 1993. They had murdered James Bulger after taking him from a shopping centre in Merseyside.

The two boys are serving their sentences at secure units in the North of England that are part of a network of facilities for violent, disturbed and dangerous youngsters. The boys will remain at the units until at least the age of 18 when they will transfer to a young offenders' institution and at 21 into a prison.

Pressure grows for Bill of Rights

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE Government faces mounting cross-party pressure to avoid further embarrassing rulings by incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat politicans voiced their support yesterday for such a move, which already has strong backing among senior judges.

Britain and Ireland are now the only two countries out of the 38 Council of Europe members that have not incorporated the European convention into domestic law or produced a written Bill of Rights.

It is one reason why Britain trails only Italy and Turkey for the numbers of cases brought over alleged human rights abuses. Yesterday Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, the Conservative chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, said: "I think people are getting a little fed up at being told what to do by foreign courts." He told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "Maybe we should incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law so British courts should decide these issues rather than foreign courts."

Another Tory MP, Patrick Nicholls, who chairs the Conservative backbench legal committee, said: "This really is the last straw. It's yet another example of countries, many of whom have had a deplorable record on human rights, presuming to lecture our Home Secretary and our courts.

Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, said: "This decision is a clear signal for the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law. It makes it absolutely clear that the only way to avoid British law being challenged as a result of decisions taken in a court in Strasbourg is to give British courts the powers of the courts in Strasbourg."

The Government has always resisted pressure to enshrine the convention into British law, but the case has never been as widely suported as now after a series of rulings against Britain.

If the convention were made part of domestic law, then alleged abuses of human rights would be decided in British courts. It would mean people having a much quicker remedy than the five-year trail to Strasbourg. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, has already pledged to implement the reform.

The Euro-sceptic wing of the Conservative Party recently urged Britain to pull out of the European Convention altogether, but the Government agreed last month to sign up for a further five years. This was its last chance to pull out: Britain has already agreed a new protocol on the merging of the Commission and Court into a full-time body to which it would be permanently committed.

Britain has been in the dock at the European Court of Human Rights over several allegations. Rulings include:

May 1985: three women, from Malawi, the Philippinesand Sri Lanka, successfully challenge immigration laws denying their husbands automatic entry to Britain.

April 1988: murderer Jimmy Boyle won a claim that correspondence was unlawfully interfered with in prison.

July 1989: the extradition of Jens Soering, a West German, to the US on two murder charges was blocked because he could face years on death row.

October 1990: three sex offenders won a ruling forcing a review of the way life-sentence prisoners are released on licence and then recalled.

February 1995: relatives of three IRA terrorists killed in Gibraltar won ruling condemning the shooting.

HIV foreigners win housing battle

By Ian Murray

THE Government's efforts to stop "benefit tourism" were set back yesterday when the Court of Appeal ruled that a council must house two unemployed men with HIV from Spain and Italy.

Even though the two have no right of residence in Britain, the court decided that Westminster Council acted unlawfully when it refused to find accomodation for them. The landmark ruling overturns a High Court judgment last October, which said that Westminster did not have to house them because, under European Union law, they had lost their right to live in Britain by failing to look for work.

In their unanimous ruling, the three appeal judges said the two had entered Britain lawfully, exercising their right to freedom of movement under the Treaty of Rome. They were not in breach of immigration laws and were therefore entitled to be housed by the local authority.

Westminster was given leave to appeal to the House of Lords and is considering whether to do so. Ayer Kamal, representing the council, said the decision meant that housing authorities had to provide accomodation to all EU nationals, even if they did not have the right of residence.

The appeal judgment is unlikely to stand for long, however, because new legislation, expected to come into force this autumn, will stop EU nationals moving to Britain to work unless they prove they have found somewhere to live.

Euro-sceptic Tories condemned the decision. Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury, said: "This is one more example of Euro-legislation and Euro-practices creeping into British courts."

The men who brought the legally aided test case, Gaudenzio Castelli, 36, and Jose Tristan-Garcia, 33, both had jobs after arriving in Britain but gave up working when they became ill.

The judgment was welcomed by the Terence Higgins Trust, the HIV and Aids charity that supported the two. Nick Partridge, the chief executive, said: "European legislation now encourages people from other EU countries to come to the UK to work and contribute to the economy. This case demonstrates that if they become too ill to work then they should still be entitled to the protection that others enjoy in such tragic circumstances."

Catholic converts highest for 20 years

The number of adult converts to Roman Catholicism has reached the highest figure for more than 20 years, it was disclosed yesterday. As thousands of people prepare to be received into the Catholic church in traditional ceremonies this Sunday, the first in Lent, figures just released show that more than 6,000 people converted last year, an increase of more than 1,000 on the year beore. Monsignor Kieran Conry, director of the Catholic Media Office, said: "It is encouraging, especially after reports of an apparent fall in mass attendance. The indications are that last year's increase will continue."

Player jailed

A rugby forward who punched a rival, breaking his jaw in three places, was jailed for nine months at Kingston Crown Court, southwest London. Simon Devereux, 27, a 16st flanker for Gloucester's second team, was found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to the 15st Rosslyn Park captain, Jamie Cowie, 23.

Prisons record

The number of prisoners in jails in England and Wales reached a record of 53,040 yesterday. The prison population has risen from 40,606 since the end of 1992 and is expected to increase a further 5,000 during the next four years. The Penal Affairs Consortium attacked the rise at a time when prisons were being told to make cuts.

Branson deflates

Richard Branson postponed his bid to fly round the world by balloon yesterday, vowing to return to his Morocco launch site in October for another attempt. The Virgin tycoon has been ready to take off from Marrakesh since mid-January, but the flight has been frustrated by ground winds and the country's heaviest rain since 1917.

Saved by the net

A Scottish minister who slumped unconscious while on the Internet was rescued by a user in Virginia, USA, who spotted his erratic keystrokes. Vicky White, a nurse, rang a co-ordinator in Boston, Massachusetts, who alerted Tayside police. Within four minutes an ambulance was at the Rev Ken Walker's home in Arbroath.

Flight abandoned

British aviators have abandoned their attempt to fly to South Africa in a 60-year-old Tiger Moth biplane known as Skippy. David Bilcliffe and Tony Richards had been delayed by repeated engine failures in southern Italy, which meant that air clearances negotiated for flying through Africa were out of date.

Frank Warren

Our report (February 14) about the seven-year directorship ban on Frank Warren referred to a "gangland" shooting incident in which he was the victim. We accept that this was not an instance of gangsterism, in which he has never been involved, and that he was in fact shot by an unidentified assailant. We also accept that Mr Warren rejected the allegation made in court that he had traded while insolvent. We apologise for these errors.

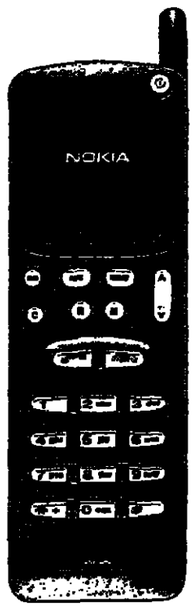
A drunken man who hijacked a bus (report, February 20) was not, as an agency report inaccurately stated, a medical student at St Thomas's Hospital, London.

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'People in Gorey couldn't care less about republicanism, especially with a few pints inside them'

Town the Troubles forgot shocked by the bomber it bred

FROM NICHOLAS WATT
IN GOREY, CO WEXFORD

THE small market town of Gorey, which lies along the picturesque east coast of Ireland, is the most unlikely place to have produced an IRA bomber.

Colourful old shops line the wide main street like thousands of other similar towns in the Republic. The border with Northern Ireland is more than 100 miles away, and to locals the Troubles disappeared when Ireland was divided in 1921.

Shopkeepers and publicans yesterday greeted with disbelief the news that Ed O'Brien, a fresh-faced local boy who was known for his athletic prowess, had given his life for a cause which is regarded with disdain in Gorey. Locals described his parents, Miley and Margo, as upstanding members of the community who were devoted to their family. Mrs O'Brien, whose other children, Gary and Lorraine, still live at home, attends Mass every day and works for local charities.

Father Walter Forde, the local priest, remembered O'Brien as an altar boy. He spoke for the community when he said: "There was never any indication that Ed had any involvement with violence or terrorist activity. There are very strongly expressed feelings of revulsion for the IRA godfathers who recruit impressionable young people into violent activity which ends as tragically as it has done for Ed and for the people who were injured in the various recent bombings."



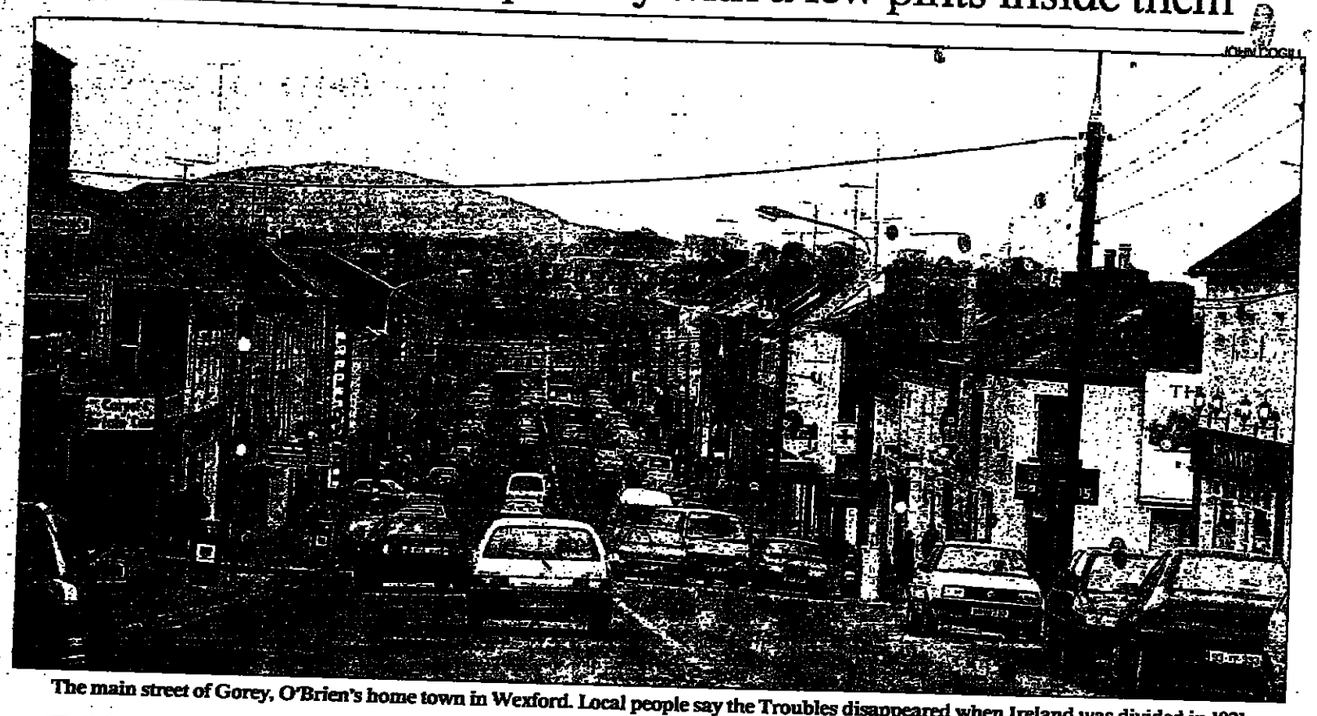
Ed O'Brien, aged 12, in school football kit

Fr Forde, who is best known in Ireland for his tireless defence of the local bishop who was recently treated in America for alcohol abuse, described O'Brien as "wholesome". He said: "He was very independent, tough, dependable and open. He was the last person you would expect to be involved in activity like this."

Locals echoed his comments when they said they were trying to fathom how someone from Gorey could have felt so strongly about the republican cause. They could understand how someone from West Belfast or South Armagh might get sucked into the IRA, but not how someone would join from such an innocuous town.

Gorey made its most notable contribution to republicanism nearly 200 years ago when the United Irishmen stormed Gorey in an effort to reach the coast road to Dublin. The town's only visible connection to republicanism today is a granite monument outside the Garda station which commemorates the founding in 1792 of the first society in Wexford of the United Irishmen. It says their aim was "to unite all the people of Ireland".

A shop owner, who asked to remain anonymous, said that people tried to cut the Troubles from their minds. She said: "There is no republican movement in Gorey. People don't care less once they have got a few pints inside them but, mind you, the younger generation have more spirit."



The main street of Gorey, O'Brien's home town in Wexford. Local people say the Troubles disappeared when Ireland was divided in 1921

Lilywhites: the rebels without an obvious cause

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ED O'BRIEN was the perfect example of the new breed of IRA active service volunteers. Nicknamed the "Lilywhites" because they appear to be above suspicion, they are uncovered only by capture or death.

When O'Brien landed at Heathrow or Holyhead there was nothing to arouse a flicker of curiosity among watching Special Branch officers. He had no criminal record, no obvious links to the republican movement and came from a respectable family in an Irish town far from the heartland of nationalist politics. O'Brien seemed just another Irish worker among thousands looking for a job.

He may have been recruited in Britain while moving in Irish circles but he is more likely to have been drawn into the IRA in Ireland where his background and suitability could be properly assessed. O'Brien would certainly have been trained there. Police believe his death indicates he was still a novice who made a fatal mistake. Certainly he is not the first Lilywhite to make that error. In 1991 Patricia Black, 18, and Frankie Ryan, 25, blew themselves up trying to bomb the band of the Blues and Royals at a concert in St Albans, Hertfordshire. Black had no IRA links and Ryan lived in Harlow, Essex, until he was 19.

Others are now in prison. In 1993 Jimmy Canning, from Ulster, was jailed as an IRA quartermaster in London handling weapons and explosives for active service units. He had no criminal record. Patrick Kelly, 41, an Irish lorry driver with a history of petty crime, was convicted in 1994 for trying to deliver a lorry bomb in the centre of London. Later the same year Jan Taylor, 50, and Patrick Hayes, 41, were jailed for life as two of the most dangerous IRA men on the mainland. Both were English and former members of an extreme left-wing group but had never been linked to terrorism.

Each terrorist was chosen as part of a policy initiated by the IRA to combat highly successful infiltration by the security forces. Recruits must have no history linked to the IRA and choose their own targets according to guidelines.

Couple refuse to go as house teeters on cliff

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

GEORGE SCOTT and his wife Jean awoke yesterday to find the North Sea just six inches from their back door, but the couple are refusing to move. Spring tides, driven by gale-force winds, have attacked the two-bedroom bungalow in Happisburgh, on the exposed Norfolk coast, leaving it teetering on a 25ft cliff.

Mr Scott, a 71-year-old former bus driver, and his wife, 56, have been warned by police and council officials that it may topple over into the sea at any minute, but they can't bear to leave their "dream" retirement home.

On Sunday, waves driven by unusually high tides and 55 mph winds broke through the newly repaired sea defences, tearing off the remaining 7ft of the back garden.

A gaping 6ft hole has now opened up under the concrete foundations of the two-bedroom seaside home, making its collapse inevitable and alarming police and council officials in nearby North Walsham. After a neighbouring chalet toppled into the sea three days agothe police asked the couple to sign a disclaimer against their death or injury and North Norfolk Council offered them an emergency home. But Mr and Mrs Scott are determined to remain in the doomed building locals call "Scotts' Folly" for as long as possible.



The Scotts: determined to enjoy their sea view

Mrs Scott said: "People might think we are stupid to be staying here, but this is our dream retirement home and we do not want to leave. Despite the risk of the sea washing us away, it is still a lovely place to live. The local people are wonderful and we have spectacular sea views."

Mr Scott, who bought the house for £15,000 in 1987, said: "I am very upset. It is getting a bit much for us now but we are determined to carry on." When the house was built in 1933 its back garden was 180ft long.



The two-bedroom house dubbed "Scotts' Folly"

Cocker demands Jackson apology

BY EMMA WILKINS

JARVIS COCKER, singer with the pop group Pulp who was arrested after claims that he assaulted children during the Brit awards, demanded an apology yesterday from Michael Jackson.

Cocker, 32, wants Jackson to retract a statement which condemned his antics and alleged that children were attacked in the incident. Although admitting that he disrupted Mr Jackson's performance at Monday night's ceremony, Cocker denies that he attacked any children.

"Jarvis wants an apology and a retraction," a spokesman for Cocker said yesterday. "He has made it clear that he didn't attack any children. If children were inadvertently pushed, it was not by Jarvis. We want an apology first from Jackson, but I suppose the next step would be to consider libel proceedings."

Michael Jackson's statement, which described the incident as disgusting and cowardly, was issued on his behalf by Sony Music. A spokesman for the singer declined to comment on yesterday's demand. Cocker was arrested after the alleged assaults and bailed until next month.

The latest exchange between the two singers came as the solicitor acting for five children from the Sylvia Young Theatre School, who were performing with Jackson, said that they were suffering from emotional and physical damage. Michael Shelton said: "The children were scared witless. They were all absolutely petrified."

Sylvia Young, who runs her theatre school in Paddington, west London, said: "The children were left feeling very upset. Everything is now in the hands of the solicitor."

Darts team takes flight after cakes are spiked with LSD

BY RICHARD DUCE

A DARTS match was abandoned as one team collapsed into laughter and hysteria after its pre-match buffet was spiked with hallucinogenic drugs. Most of the team from the Fortynine Club, Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan, aged between 21 and 62, were taken to hospital after they were either reduced to tears or uncontrollable fits of giggling during an away match in nearby Llanharry on Tuesday night.

Three men were detained overnight because their heart rate was affected by the drug, believed to be LSD or "magic mushrooms", which was added to their Welsh cakes. Despite the ill-effects, the Fortynine club was winning 3-1 at the Fox and Hounds pub when the match had to be called off.

Dennis Morgan, 45, captain of the Caerphilly team, said: "My team just started going down like ninepins. One minute we were winning 3-1 and confident of victory, the next it all started to go wrong.

"It was just as if all of my team were dead drunk — it was really weird. They started laughing and giggling and some burst into tears. They were falling down, sitting on the floor and acting stupid."

Emma Cannon, 23, barmaid at the Fox and Hounds, said yesterday: "All the younger men were helpless with laughter but the older guys burst out crying. Nobody knew what was going on. At first it was quite funny but some of the players became really ill so we called for an ambulance. In the end it took four ambulances to get them all to hospital. There were only four of the away team left at the end. Apparently they didn't eat the cakes because they were dieting."

The ten men who were taken to hospital in Bridgend had all eaten at the Fortynine club before setting off for the match. South Wales Constabulary said yesterday a 39-year-old man and a 19-year-old woman were being interviewed at Caerphilly police station.

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Britain opposes Commission plan

Europe urged to ditch national veto and end 'paralysis'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND PHIL WEBSTER

THE European Commission yesterday gave broad approval to a plan for revamping the Maastricht treaty by eliminating the national veto in almost all areas of EU business.

While shunning any leap to new structures, the Commission's blueprint for the imminent Maastricht review argues that majority voting rather than unanimity among member states is the only way to avoid paralysis as the Union incorporates new members.

Britain rejects any reduction in the veto, and reform to the decision-making procedures where it applies will be a main battle-ground at the Intergovernmental Conference, which opens in Turin on March 29 and will last more than a year.

The Commission, which is to approve a final draft of its plan next Wednesday, also urges member states to adopt a multiple-speed approach which would prevent members blocking moves to integration as the Union enlarges. Britain is the main target of the measure, which is being backed by France, Germany, Italy and others.

More controversially, the draft, which will be "fine-tuned" before final approval by Jacques Santer, the Commission president, and his 19 colleagues, suggests that lesser aspects of the union's treaties could be subject to future change without the unanimous approval of members. The notion is certain to be resisted not just by Britain but also by France and other member states.

The Commission calls for a strengthened common foreign policy where national vetoes would only apply in matters of vital interest and those involving military action. At present decisions in this area, managed between governments, are taken by so-called qualified majority. This falls in line with the wishes of Germany and the majority of member states.

Sources said there was disagreement among Commissioners yesterday over the wording of a call to "re-examine the role of the Western European Union in view of its integration into the Union". Britain and other states are opposed to incorporating the WEU, the European pillar of Nato, into the EU. France, however, wants it "subordinated" to the EU.

Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader, surprised fellow Commissioners in his criticism of aspects of the draft which were nodded through by Sir Leon Brittan, the trade Commissioner and former Conservative Cabinet Minister. On the sensitive issue of justice and home affairs, the Commission backs the thinking of France and many other members who want it to take charge of the day-to-day running of home affairs, a field now handled entirely between governments. The proposal is fiercely resisted by Britain. The exception would be civil and criminal justice, but the veto should be removed from the whole field, the Commission proposes.

The British Cabinet will next week put the final touches to a White Paper to be published next month, setting out its stance for the conference. The document, with which Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and John Major hope to achieve a new consensus on Europe, will rule out hardline Euro-sceptic demands for a repatriation of powers from Brussels.

☐ Mr Major last night faced fresh unrest among Tory Euro-sceptics after the Government rejected a call from an all-party group of MPs for a Commons debate on the terms for entry into a single currency. The dispute was triggered by a letter from Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, to the Select Committee on European legislation.

The committee had called for a full-scale debate to clear up confusion over whether Britain would have to rejoin the ERM before embarking on the final stage of economic and monetary union.

In a recent report, the committee said that the Prime Minister had given contradictory answers over whether the ERM hurdle, as set out in the Maastricht treaty, still applied after its effective break-up, and called for it to be debated.

Mr Newton agreed that the ERM test was of political importance but ruled that the matter should be debated in a standing committee, away from the floor of the House.

CHRIS HARRIS



Volker Rühe, the German Defence Minister, inspects a guard of honour yesterday before talks with Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary

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British Library will finally open nine years late

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

THE troubled British Library will not be ready for a long-planned formal opening by the Queen next year. A damning report from the National Audit Office, due to be published in April, will conclude that poor management was responsible for a catalogue of avoidable technical disasters that have left the building behind schedule yet again.

The report will also warn that costs continue to spiral out of control and are likely to exceed £500 million, almost three times the original estimates. A Whitehall source said: "This is possibly the most critical report the NAO has ever produced."

Dr Brian Lang, the library's chief executive, said yesterday: "We are bracing ourselves for the report and it will have a bad effect on morale. There have been problems but the NAO report is about history. We are now very confident in the future of the building."

The library was originally due to open in 1989. It intends to announce a "firm timetable" next month, which will envisage taking over the building on the St Pancras site from the Department of National Heritage by early next year. The first readers should be using the facilities 12 months later. Dr Lang said: "The bad period is in the past. We are now looking forward to a successful opening. There has been a sea-change in recent months."

He emphasised that opening the library to the public would be a "rolling programme", with some sections not fully open until 1999. He denied reports that have claimed that some parts of the library will not be fully operational until into the next century.

The highly critical NAO report has been the subject of much wrangling between the watchdog and Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage. The department has asked Sir John Bourn, head of the NAO, to tone down some criticisms. But the NAO will severely criticise aspects of the financial management and report that many of the technical problems that have contributed to the delays and increased costs were easily avoidable.

The building has been blighted by a series of problems since it was first planned in the 1970s to replace the present British Museum site and its historic round reading room. In 1991, moveable shelves custom-designed for the library jammed and started throwing books to the floor.

In 1992 the air conditioning system was found to be faulty. Sections of the building flooded. In 1993, 5,000 defective sprinklers had to be replaced. In 1994, more than 2,000 miles of electric cabling was ripped out when it was discovered that faults had left it vulnerable to short-circuiting. Last year a ceiling was found to have been built too low and had to be demolished and replaced.

In November electricians and engineers walked out in a dispute over unpaid wages. A round of cuts last month reduced staff by up to 200.



Lang: mistakes are in the past

Leading article, page 19

Mackay presents Times law prizes

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FEARS about the Government's reforms of the legal profession, which were bitterly opposed by judges and the Bar five years ago, had proved unfounded, the Lord Chancellor said last night.

Announcing the winners of the 1995 *Times* Law Awards competition, sponsored by the chambers of Anthony Grabiner, QC, at 1 Essex Court, Lord Mackay of Clashfern said the impact of the reforms had been oversold. With the benefit of hindsight, the breaking of the Bar's monopoly on advocacy rights so that solicitor would be allowed into the higher courts had not had the disastrous effects predicted.

There had been a slow take-up by solicitors of these rights, Lord Mackay said. With the greater trend towards specialisation in the legal profession, it would be unlikely that the specialism of advocacy would evaporate overnight as some suggested it might during the passage of the Courts and Legal Services Bill.

Lord Mackay was commenting on the entries received for the competition title *Advocacy—has it a future?* at a dinner held in the Old Hall, Lincolns Inn. First prize of £3,000 went to Renuka Kukanesen, a law student at Nottingham University, second prize (£2,000) to James Nicholls, a mature student at the University of North London, and third (£1,000) to Christopher Daniels, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. The runners up, who each received £250, were Philip Daniels, Jasbir Dhillon and Daniel Raglan.

☐ A full report of the awards will be published on Tuesday.

Law Report, page 35

Film nonsense and insensibility almost stopped Austen epic

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

THE five most important studios in Hollywood turned down Emma Thompson's adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* when it was offered to them in 1990, the film's producer revealed yesterday. Executives had not heard of Thompson or Austen.

Five years later, the movie that has attracted eight Oscar nominations, two Golden Globe awards and multi-million-dollar takings at the American box-office, is opening in Britain tomorrow. Its charity premiere, attended by the Prince of Wales, was held last night.


Jane who? Hollywood hadn't heard of Austen

Lindsay Doran, the producer, had approached executives at Paramount, Universal, Warner, Disney and Twentieth Century Fox. "All said no," she recalled. "It was hard to keep going after so much rejection."

She was on the point of giving up when someone at Columbia Tristar casually expressed interest in an adaptation of a Jane Austen book. The regimes at the other studios, she said, had changed since then.

One of the executives was gallant enough to admit his mistake.

"He said, 'It's the greatest regret of my life. I loved the movie. I'm sorry I didn't have the foresight to do it.'" She expects others "to vote against it" on awards, explaining that in Hollywood, "that's what you do with a movie you haven't seen the light on. You hope that it fails. You're a human being.

"It's hard in human nature to be gracious. Being gracious is very untypical in Hollywood — though Hollywood is only human nature under a magnifying glass. Everything satirised in Austen, you see in Hollywood. Fanny and John talk themselves out of giving the Dashwood girls any money, despite a deathbed promise; they talk themselves into being better people for *not* giving money. You see that every day of the week in Hollywood because so much money is at stake. They start out making an agreement to do something and have no intention of doing it. They feel justified in not doing it."

Her difficulties in getting the film off the ground were partly due to Thompson being an unknown quantity. "In 1990, her name meant nothing." The reactions ranged from "Who's Emma Thompson?" to "Who's Jane Austen?"

Ms Doran added: "The irony was that if they had read Austen, they would ask, 'why make a movie out of what's considered Austen's worst book?'." All she was seeking initially was someone to pay Ms Thompson to write the script. "People were saying, 'if she writes it, isn't she going to want to be *in* it?'."

Ms Doran had dreamed of making a film of the novel for 25 years. She read it at the age of 22, while recuperating from a car crash in Britain.

As the daughter of a senior studio executive at Paramount working on films such as *Some Like It Hot*, she had lived and breathed films: when she read anything, she was subconsciously looking for its cinematic qualities.

She said that, although *Emma* is a greater book, "the best movies have been made out of second-rate books — great books have an intangible quality. You cannot get their greatness on film."

The film has taken $25 million since it opened in December in America, although it has still not opened nationwide there. Its Oscar nominations for best screenplay, actress, supporting actress, film, director, cinematographer, dramatic score and costume are expected to increase the figure.

Review, page 31


Emma Thompson with producer Lindsay Doran: eight Oscar nominations

Eurostar crawls to Paris in 14 hours

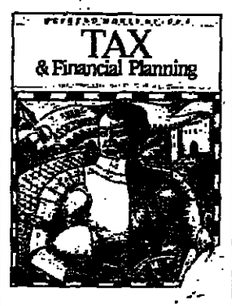
By Jonathan Prynn

HUNDREDS of Eurostar passengers were trapped inside the Channel Tunnel for three hours during a nightmare trip to Paris, where they arrived nearly 11 hours late. They finally limped into the Gare du Nord at 4am yesterday, 14 hours after setting out from London, after transferring to a conventional train.

The packed train was the second Eurostar to get stuck in the tunnel during the blizzards that have swept the South East. It left Waterloo on Tuesday at 12.53pm loaded with passengers from other delayed services. Three miles into the tunnel it was halted by a technical hitch thought to be caused by the sudden change in temperature. Emergency batteries kept the lights on for about two hours before passengers were left with only the tunnel lights and no heating.

A spokesman for EPS, the Government-owned company that operates Eurostar, said passengers were being offered compensation. They said they were considering suing.

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Viewers must pay £10 to see Tyson-Bruno

By Alexandra Frean and Srikumar Sen

VIEWERS of cable and satellite television will have to pay £9.95 to watch next month's world heavyweight fight between Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson as part of an experiment to bring American-style pay-per-view TV to Britain.

BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, said it had chosen the eagerly awaited World Boxing Council fight, to be held in the early hours of March 17 in Las Vegas, to test its new pay-per-view system. If it is successful, the company plans to extend the practice to major cultural and sporting events.

David Elstein, programmes director at Sky, said: "We might be able to persuade a European opera house to put on a major, sold-out music event on pay-per-view in the UK."

The Bruno/Tyson match will be available to all of Sky's 4.7 million subscribers. They will be able to "order" the match in advance by telephone and the viewing fee would then be debited. Anyone purchasing it after midnight on Friday, March 15, will have to pay £14.95.

The move is likely to prove unpopular with BSkyB subscribers, who already have to pay at least £15.99 a month to receive the Sky multi-channel package that includes three sports channels, Sky Sports and Sky Sports 2 and Sky Sports Gold. An opinion poll of 500 adults published yesterday by the media research company CIA MediaLab showed that 66 per cent of cable and satellite viewers would be unlikely to use pay-per-view television.

In order to circumvent legal challenges from Sky subscribers that they are being asked to pay out extra money for something they already paid for, BSkyB will screen the match on the same transponder used by Sky Sports 2 after that channel's signal closes down at 6am.

Bruno, the reigning WBC heavyweight champion, is receiving £4 million for the bout. But Frank Warren, his promoter, suggested that could be increased if the event was a success.

Mr Elstein said that BSkyB had attempted to keep the price down. Don King, Tyson's promoter, had initially demanded that the pay-per-view price be set at £20 to £25.

BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*.

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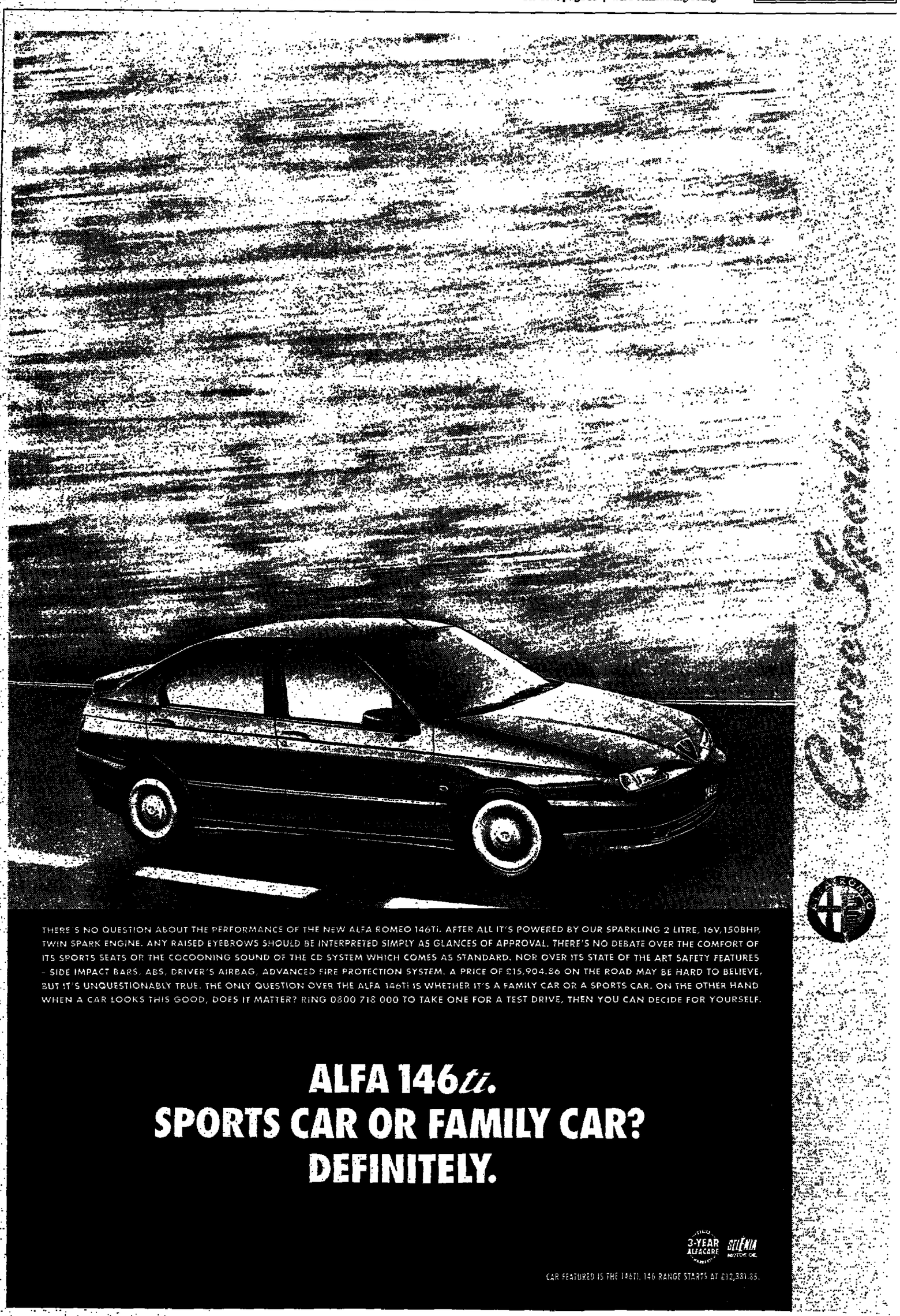
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هكذا في الاصل

Stricken supertanker: owner and insurer rule out mechanical and technical failure

Navigation buoys may have been in the wrong place

By Andrew Pierce

NAVIGATION buoys at the mouth of Milford Haven port may have been in the wrong place on the night the supertanker *Sea Empress* was driven on to the rocks, it emerged yesterday.

The owners and insurers of the 147,000 tonne Norwegian-owned supertanker claim to have ruled out mechanical and technical failure. The claim about the navigation lights will be investigated by the Milford Haven port authority and the Department of Transport, which will conduct separate inquiries. Human error by the pilot or captain, in allowing the vessel to go off course perilously close to the shore, will also feature in the investigation.

On February 5 the tanker, which was built in 1993, was given a clean bill of health in its annual mechanical inspection by Det Norske Deritas, the Norwegian classification society.

Captain Eduard Bolgov, 59, head of the tanker's 28-strong Russian crew, had navigated the Welsh waterway dozens of times in the past. Speculation that language difficulties with the port authorities were a contributory factor is groundless — Mr Bolgov speaks fluent English and relays his instructions to his crew as they approach British ports in English and Russian.

John Arnold, the pilot who boarded the ship 15 minutes before it hit a sandbank and the rocks, has worked in the port for more than ten years. He lives locally and has been instructed not to speak to the press.

One claim being examined last night was that the "leading lights", illuminated buoys that create a pathway into the harbour, were in the wrong place. High winds and strong currents may have dislodged them.

The supertanker, which was on its way to a Texaco refinery in Milford Haven, moved into position to sail into the harbour just before 8pm on Thursday. Within 15 minutes of Mr Arnold stepping on board for the routine operation of guiding it into port it struck the rocks. A maritime emergency was declared and shipping was banned from a ten-mile radius.

Michael Thorp, of Skuld, the Norwegian insurance company that faces an $84 million (£54 million) payout, said: "The tanker may have been too far to the coast when the pilot got on board. He must have felt uncomfortable when he got on to the bridge."

By 10pm the tanker had been refloated and crew and salvage engineers stayed on board. On Friday salvage operations were delayed for 24 hours because of force-eight gales. The absence of a large salvage tug was crucial in the ensuing failure to save the coastline.

The report by Lord Donaldson of Lymington into the *Braer* oil spillage in Shetland in January 1993 made clear that by the winter of 1994-95 there should be new, large salvage tugs serving the Western Approaches. Milford Haven was singled out as a high risk area in his report.

The Government, which accepted the first two Donaldson recommendations to put extra tugs in Shetland and Dover has so far failed to implement the third: one serving Wales. The Transport Department said: "We accept his recommendation that there should be more tugs by this winter. We are looking at it."

On Saturday, as the winds intensified, the salvagers turned the tanker around so her bows faced into the growing storm. At 6.30pm two of the tugs lost their tow lines and tanker swung back round. Two other tugs clung on but the anchor chains on the tanker snapped.

On Sunday salvage experts were landed by helicopter and the operation was reinforced by the arrival of a Chinese tug, *De Yue*, one of the most powerful in the world. The salvage crew were lifted off because of force-nine winds.

Simon Lyster, director-general of The Wildlife Trusts, said: "It has been a fiasco from start to finish. It has been under-resourced by the Government. There was not a proper salvage tug in the region."

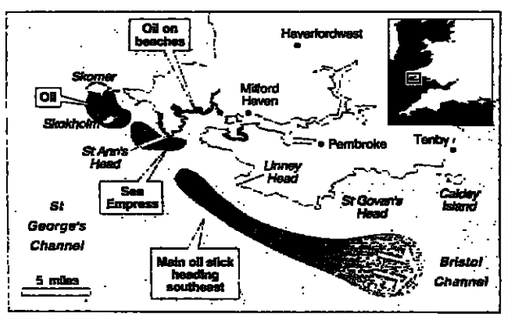
Claims for loss and damage caused by the *Sea Empress* could reach £160 million, insurers estimate. The tanker is insured for £30 million, while claims for damage to local industries might be as high as £130 million if all of her 147,000 tonnes of light crude oil are washed ashore.

If the *Sea Empress* breaks up, the environmental damage is likely to be worse than the *Braer* disaster when almost 85,000 tonnes of oil were spilt.

Nigel Hawkes, page 18



Tugs surrounding the stricken *Sea Empress*, which remained stuck fast on rocks off St Ann's Head, near Milford Haven, yesterday



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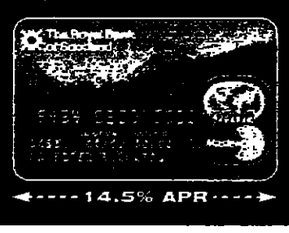
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Stricken supertanker: 'Mr Goschen,' went the minister's ditty, 'has no notion of the ocean'

'Labour aims to torpedo 'boy scout' on the bridge

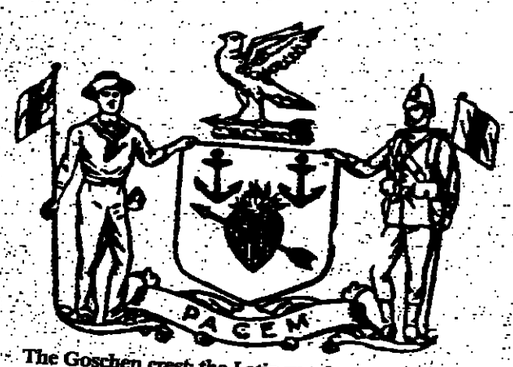
BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

WHEN Viscount Goschen was made minister for shipping at the tender age of 28, he chanted an old family ditty, "Mr Goschen has no notion of the ocean". Two years later, facing calls for his resignation over the handling of the crippled supertanker *Sea Empress*, the ditty must seem more like a curse.

The youngest minister has found life in the Government extremely tough. Not only does he have to spend hours smashing champagne bottles on ships' hulls, he has also had to negotiate with the French over tougher safety measures for ferries and spend days touring countries such as Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kirghizia.

Friends say that every time the phone goes in the middle of the night, he is convinced another ferry must have capsized and he will have to rush to the scene of the disaster. He also has responsibility for aviation, and spends hours embroiled in arguments with residents over new runways.

To make matters worse, the 4th Viscount is very conscious that he comes from a long and distinguished line of eminent politicians and seafarers. His father was a deputy chief whip in the Lords. The second Viscount was an MP, Governor of Madras and Viceroy and Acting Governor-General in India.



The Goschen crest: the Latin word pacem (peace) with anchors, a dove, a sailor and Royal Marine

The first Viscount became Salisbury's Chancellor when Lord Randolph Churchill resigned in a huff in 1886. Someone suggested the name of Goschen, a financial expert and Liberal Unionist, and Salisbury said, "I had forgotten Goschen." He was First Lord of the Admiralty twice.

Giles John Harry Goschen went to Eton and then the Central London Polytechnic, where he graduated in business studies. His friends thought he seemed more interested in saving the planet than plotting politics.

He went into the City as a stockbroker, but started studying African fauna. He and his future wife, Sally Horsnall, whom he met at a hunt ball, went out to Zambia to work for a conservation agency. But after dodging hippopotami and crocodiles, they decided to return to what they believed were safer waters.

Lord Goschen started using his House of Lords club regularly, always arriving by motorbike, and was soon rewarded. At the tender age of 26, before he had even made his maiden speech, he was offered the position of Government whip.

The Department of the Environment didn't realise he was attached to them for weeks and Downing Street knew nothing about the Government's new recruit for months. But Lord Goschen has slowly made his way up the political ranks.

Advocates of reform of the House of Lords always point to him, and are horrified that such a young man could be sent to represent Britain's shipping interests around the world. But although Lord Goschen has an unfortunate flat delivery, he has a good grasp of detail and is an effective boy scout for the Government.

Today he will be representing the Government in the Lords during the third reading of the Humber Bridge (Depts) Bill. Labour have promised to call for his head. Lord Goschen may be wishing he were back in Africa.

☐ Graham Allen, Labour's transport spokesman, accused the Government of "gross misjudgment" over the supertanker, and of failing to implement a recommendation of the Donaldson report into the 1993 *Braer* disaster, for a powerful tug to be maintained in the Western Approaches.



CHRIS ISON

Troubled waters for Lord Goschen, left, but Paul Chung, chef in a Chinese restaurant, rose to the occasion

Takeaway chef delivers salvation

BY ANDREW PIERCE

ONE of the unlikeliest early heroes of the *Sea Empress* rescue operation was a chef in a Chinese takeaway restaurant. Paul Chung, 29, was halfway through cooking his speciality dish, Peking-style chicken, when a fireman burst into the Happy Garden restaurant at Hakin, Milford Haven, to ask for help.

The Chinese supertug *De Yue* had been diverted from Falmouth to help the stricken *Sea Empress* but the coastguards could not understand a word the Chinese crew were saying. Staff coordinating the rescue operation, who regularly buy takeaways from the restaurant half a mile from the docks, immediately thought of Paul.

Mr Chung, a Hong Kong-born bachelor who came to Britain 20 years ago, said: "A fireman rushed in and asked if I spoke good Chinese. I told him I could offer only Cantonese. They could not tell the difference so within minutes I was at the port offices speaking to the Chinese crew by radio. The coastguards told me what they wanted the crew to do and I translated it into Cantonese. Fortunately there was at least one Cantonese speaker on board but it was difficult to make myself heard. The line was faint and crackling."

Mr Chung, a distinctive figure in the area, is now the talk of the town. "People have been congratulating me for helping keep the ship off the rocks. I keep saying: 'I have never taken such a strange order before in my restaurant.' My parents are bemused by it all. They cannot speak any English so I have to keep translating for them."

Fishermen face indefinite ban

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FISHING in the contaminated area of the *Sea Empress* oil spill may have to be halted indefinitely, fisheries officials said yesterday.

Lobsters, crabs, oysters, cockles, mussels and other fish caught in the rich grounds off southwest Wales fetch more than £7 million a year at first sale, providing jobs for about 1,000 people.

At an emergency meeting in Milford Haven on Tuesday night, nearly a hundred fishermen, traders and processors agreed to observe an immediate voluntary ban on fishing to prevent any risk of contaminated goods going on sale.

The ban will last initially for four days, covering an area that reaches six miles out to sea and all the way from the Gower peninsula in the east to St David's Head in the west, a distance of some 30 miles.

The meeting also agreed to take legal advice on seeking compensation from the owners of the *Sea Empress* for any damage to fish stocks. David Bray, a local crab and lobster fisherman and secretary of the Welsh Coastal Inshore Fishermen's Association, said: "So much oil and chemical dispersant has now gone into the sea that we must be fearful about the long-term effect on our livelihood." He added: "Local buyers say continental importers are already putting out the word that they do not want any more Welsh shellfish for the time being."

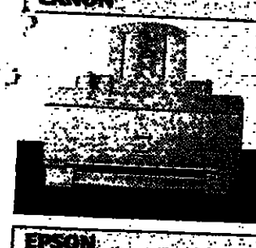
Oysters, cockles and mussels taken from the Milford Haven estuary are being analysed at the Ministry of Agriculture's directorate of fisheries research in Essex. Dr Peter Matthiessen, of the directorate, said: "We still have to see what our analysis shows, but it is certainly possible that fishing in the area will have to be halted."

Crabs and lobsters off the coast are worth £1.5 million a year. Carmarthen Bay is prized for its £2.5 million-a-year cockle industry. Whelk exports now fetch £1.5 million because of new markets in South Korea and China.

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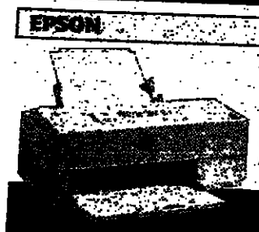
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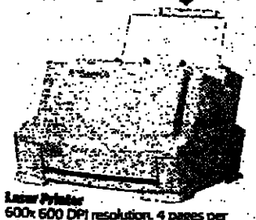
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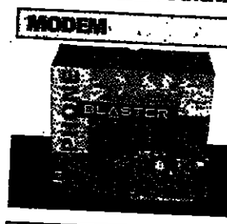
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Debidin: his dogs made people's lives a misery

Court tells man not to leave his 17 dogs

A MAN who owns 17 German shepherd dogs has been told that he must not leave them for more than an hour a day. A High Court judge also ruled yesterday that no more than five dogs could be let into the garden at any time.

The order was imposed on Andrew Debidin, a bankrupt businessman, by Mr Justice Bell, after Wokingham District Council told the court that Mr Debidin's neighbours were living in misery.

Mr Justice Bell ruled that the dogs had caused a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act. The council said Mr Debidin, of Three Mile Cross, Berkshire, was in breach of an undertaking made on December 19 last year to keep noise levels down.

However, Mr Justice Bell said he would not send Mr Debidin to prison because the breach of the ruling occurred on one day eight weeks ago. He said that a fine would also be inappropriate because Mr Debidin was bankrupt.

David Webber, an environmental health officer, said the dogs barking was "unacceptable and extremely intrusive". One neighbour said: "Our summer was ruined. We had to move out of our bedroom because the noise was so loud."

Mr Debidin told the court he had been keeping his dogs under control and had reduced them from 30 to 17 over the years. Reducing their numbers further was difficult because people only wanted puppies and his dogs were too old to find new homes.

Car clamped in London side street marks start of campaign against licence dodgers

First victim's luck runs out 6 months after his road tax

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT, AND OLIVER AUGUST

A BLUE Ford Fiesta entered the history books shortly before 11am yesterday when it became the first car in Britain to be clamped for displaying an out-of-date tax disc.

There was a sense of achievement among the team from the Driver and Vehicle Licencing Agency (DVLA) as they applied the wheel clamp to the nine-year-old car near Wandsworth Bridge in southwest London. Its tax disc had run out last August.

Malcom Mason, a DVLA tax enforcement officer, spotted the first potential victim of the crackdown on tax evasion parked in Hamble Street, a quiet residential road.

A quick telephone check against the DVLA database confirmed that no tax had been paid for six months. By keying in the details on a hand-held computer, Mr Mason alerted the DVLA clamping van, which was waiting discreetly round the corner to avoid alerting the car's owner.

The electronics worked without a hitch, except when Mr Mason's frozen fingers stabbed the wrong buttons on the computer keyboard. "It was so easy in training," he muttered, as the computer printed out a ticket to stick on the car's windscreen.

Within minutes Darren Liddy, the clamper from Arcade Motors, the contractor working for the agency, had whipped out one of his DVLA-stamped immobilisers and attached it to the forlorn-looking Fiesta. The owner has to pay £68 to have it freed and faces having it towed away if the fee is not paid within 24 hours.

The only witnesses to the historic moment was a worried resident who popped his head briefly out into the freezing air to check the car was not his, and a passing pensioner, Len Matthews, 72, who wholeheartedly welcomed the initiative.

"About time too. I'm all for it," he said. "There are so many tax dodgers on the road, they deserve being done for it. Why should people like me who pay on time pay for them? If I missed paying by a day, knowing my luck, I would probably be one of the first to get clamped."

Haydn Madoc, the DVLA's project manager for the trial, anxiously shooed the clamping team away from the scene as quickly as possible to avoid an embarrassing encounter with an irate owner.

Local residents claimed the car belonged to a commuter who took advantage of the free parking in the street before catching a bus to central London.

Robert Wickens, 40, said: "It must be one of the people who drive here and then leave the car because it's too expensive to park where they work. They take up all the space and the residents have nowhere to park. Soon we are getting a residents' parking scheme, but then you have to pay £60 a year to park on your own street."

Maria Ambert, 52, said: "I sometimes see a man in a suit getting in and out of the Fiesta, either early in the morning or in the evening. But he doesn't live around here. There are lots of people parking round here who work in the City. They deserve to get clamped."

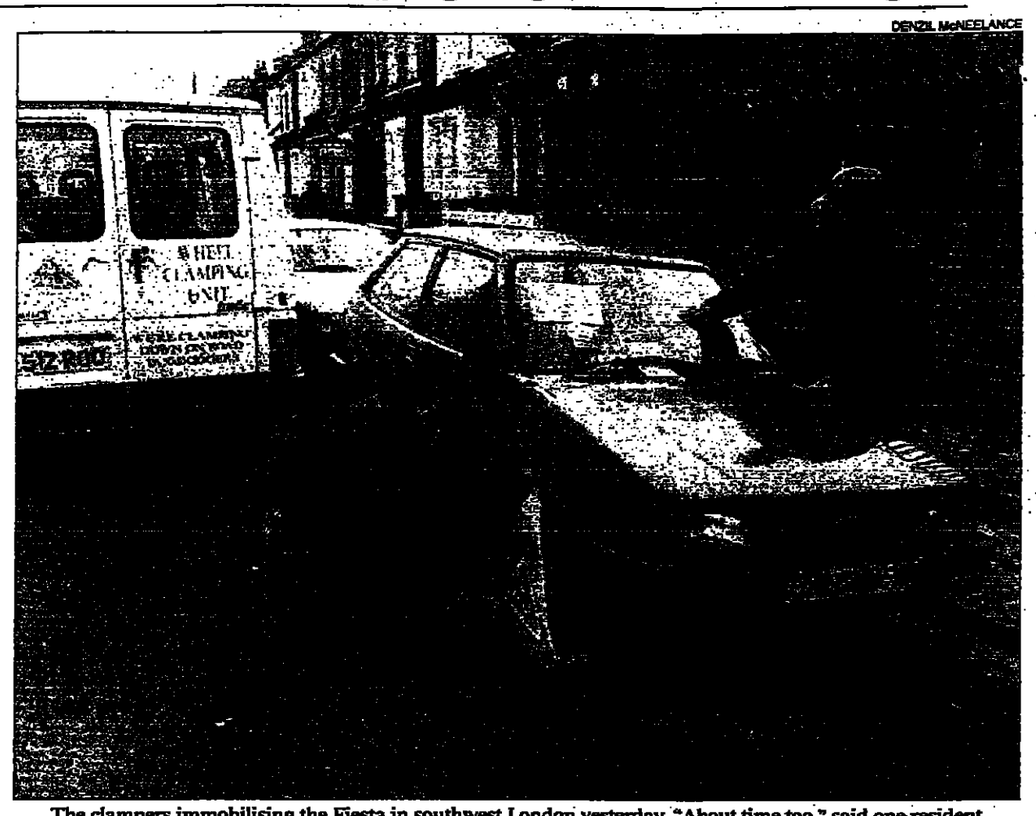
The historic first completed, the team moved on to victim number two, a silver Renault 25 with no tax disc and no record of payment within the past six months.

Although only a handful of cars had been clamped by the end of the first day, the two vans that will be involved in the trial are capable of dealing with up to 50 vehicles a day. The number is expected to increase as the project gets fully into its stride. Mr Madoc was adamant that only the worst offenders would be clamped and that owners who produced a disc dated the day of the clamping would probably have their fee waived.

He said that although the clamping firm was being paid a fee for every car immobilised, the DVLA would always make the final decision about whether a car should be clamped. "The main thing is getting out on the street and being seen on the street," he said.

Certain categories of car, including those owned by disabled drivers, doctors on call and diplomats will be spared, as well as cars over 25 years old, which no longer have to be taxed.

The three-month trial will initially concentrate on the borough of Kensington and Chelsea but will also rove into the adjoining boroughs of Westminster, Wandsworth and Hammersmith and Fulham to stop drivers escaping justice by parking over the border. If successful, the scheme will be extended to other London boroughs later in the year.



DENZIL McGEELANCE

The clampers immobilising the Fiesta in southwest London yesterday. "About time too," said one resident

Car-boot painting may fetch £18,000

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A VICTORIAN painting bought for £35 in a car-boot sale in west London seven years ago could fetch £18,000 for the man who spotted it.

The owner, a 44-year-old London carpet dealer who wishes to remain anonymous, noticed the canvas in the back of a Ford Transit van at the sale in Hounslow. He haggled for ten minutes, eventually knocking the price down from £50 to £35.

Eventually, he took it to be valued at Christie's. They identified it as a view of St Michael's Mount in Cornwall by Benjamin Williams Leader (1831-1923). The owner said yesterday: "For once I was at a loss for words. I thought the painting might have been worth £400 or £500."

He goes to car-boot sales once or twice a year, looking for books. "The canvas at the sale was sticking out from a pile of furniture and other knick-knacks. I went to the library once to look it up and found nothing. I thought it was another one of those unknown painters."

Martin Beisly, Christie's director of Victorian pictures, said: "The vendor brought the picture in out of curiosity. I was delighted to be able to tell him it was a lost work by Leader. It is very beautiful."

Leader was a highly rated Worcester landscape painter who exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts in London between 1857 and 1922.



The view of St Michael's Mount, bought for £35

Chemical firm ordered to pay £500,000 for contamination

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CHEMICAL company was ordered yesterday to pay out almost £500,000 after failing to prevent toxic emissions contaminating an area of north Derbyshire.

Coalite Chemicals was fined £150,000 with £300,000 costs for leaking dioxins into the atmosphere from its plant in Bolsover, near Chesterfield, in 1990 and 1991.

The dioxins, chemical by-products linked with cancer, contaminated local people, farm animals and land, Leicester Crown Court was told. Coalite admitted a charge under the Health and Safety at Work Act of failing to prevent the emissions, ending the biggest investigation by the Pollution Inspectorate.

The investigation discovered a link between emissions from the plant's incinerator and high dioxin levels in the immediate environment. The problem was caused by operatives burning waste at below the instructed 800C. The particles landed on cow pastures and entered the food chain.

Mr Justice Brooke said the operatives of Coalite's incinerator had failed to comply with "very clear written instructions". But he added: "In my judgment it is not only the operatives and their supervisors who are to blame for what happened ... I remain of the view that it is the management who are most seriously to blame for not ensuring that their staff knew why they were being instructed not to burn waste within 12 hours of starting up or at temperatures of less than 800C and for not having effective monitoring systems in place."



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Findings could lead to 'cure'

Scientists isolate cause of addiction to cigarette smoke

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

CIGARETTES may cause addiction by suppressing the action of a key brain chemical, American scientists report today. They have found that the brains of smokers have about 40 per cent less of an enzyme called monoamine oxidase B (MAO B) than do those of non-smokers or former smokers.

The enzyme's role is to break down dopamine, a signalling chemical that helps regulate mood, movement and the reinforcement of behaviour patterns. Lower levels of the enzyme mean higher levels of dopamine, to which smokers become accustomed.

The finding, reported in *Nature* by a team led by Dr Joanna Fowler of Brookhaven National Laboratory in upstate New York, may also explain why it is that smokers have a lower risk of Parkinson's disease. The symptoms of the disease are caused by a deficiency of dopamine, which is increased in smokers by the effect on MAO B.

Lower levels of the enzyme have already been measured in the blood of smokers, but the Brookhaven team has shown that this is also true in the brain. They used positron emission tomography, a sensitive brain-scanning technique, to measure the amounts of a radioactive tracer which binds to MAO B.

Seven smokers and six non-smokers volunteered to have the tracer injected into their bloodstream. The quantities in the brain gave a measure of the amount of MAO B present; it was 40 per cent lower in smokers' brains.

If indeed it is the reduction of MAO B that helps people to become addicted to smoking, the finding has a number of implications. One is that drugs that mimic the effect of smoking by depressing MAO B could help smokers give up by producing the same "feel-good" effects in the first difficult weeks.

There is some confirmation of this in recent studies cited by the team showing that the drug moclobemide, which inhibits the closely related enzyme MAO A, does help heavy smokers give up.

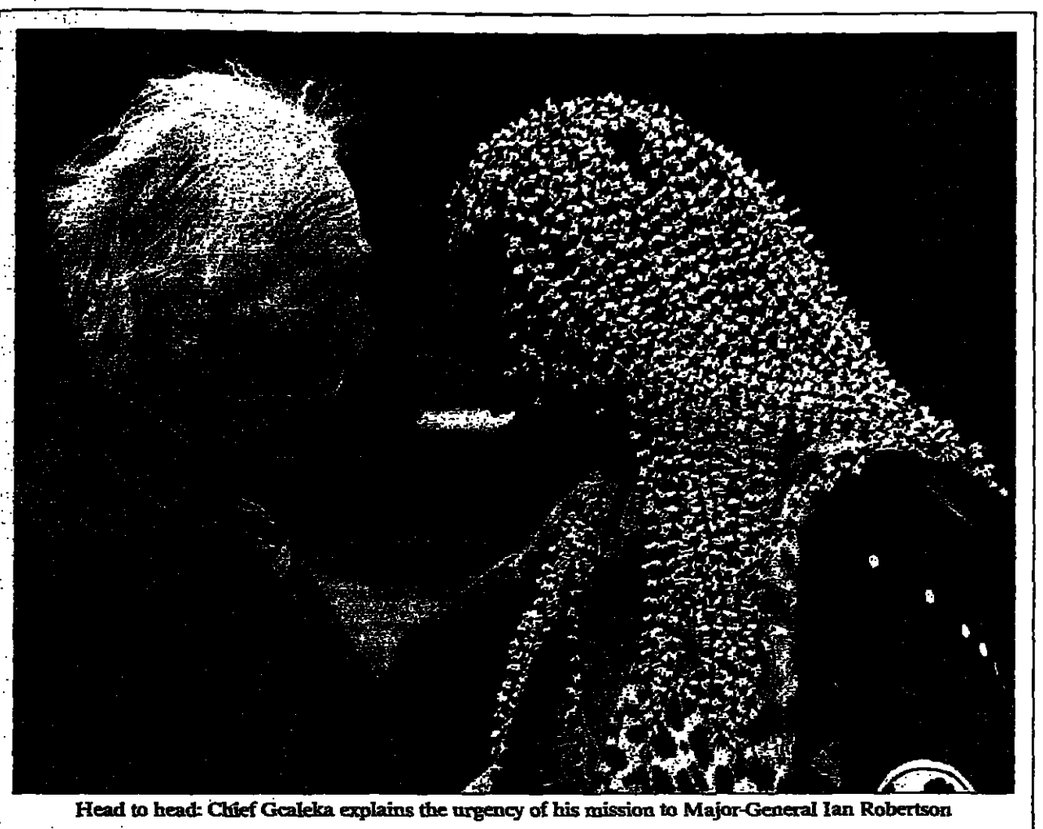
In a commentary in the same issue of the journal, two scientists unconnected with the Brookhaven team, Alexander Glassman of Columbia University and George Koob of the Scripps Research Institute, draw even more sweeping conclusions.

They say that the increase of dopamine in smokers may explain why they are more alert and perform better in some tests of mental ability. They also say that the inhibition of the enzyme may be the reason why cigarettes are often a "gateway" drug.

Dopamine plays a key role in reward signalling and addiction, they say. Almost all drugs of addiction, including cocaine, amphetamines, heroin, alcohol and nicotine, provide their "lift" through the dopamine signalling system. "If dopamine availability is significantly altered by MAO B inhibition, this could influence the vulnerability of an individual to various aspects of addiction."

For example, studies show that smokers are more likely than non-smokers to become alcoholics, or addicted to other drugs. The inhibition of MAO B could explain this gateway role, they say, and if so "it would raise even further the concern about adolescent exposure to cigarettes".

The ingredient in the smoke that causes these actions is at present unknown, but it is increasingly evident, the two scientists say, that nicotine is not the only psychoactive component of tobacco smoke.



Head to head: Chief Gcaleka explains the urgency of his mission to Major-General Ian Robertson

Headhunter undeterred by Scots miss

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

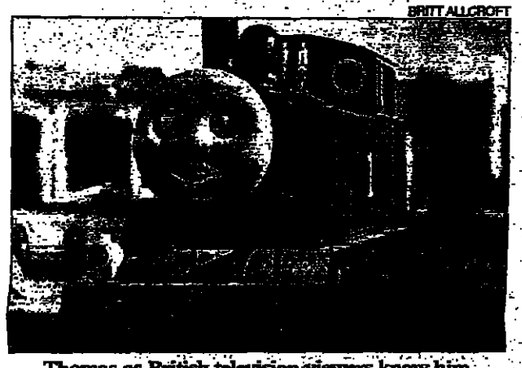
A XHOSA witchdoctor's quest for his ancestor's skull took him on a spirit flight over a Highlands forest yesterday. Wearing a leopard skin and brandishing a fly whisk, Chief Nicholas Gcaleka arrived at The Highlanders regimental museum in Fort George to search for the head of his great-great uncle.

Greeted with a glass of whisky by Major-General Ian Robertson, retired, the chief searched the museum fruitlessly for the skull of the warrior chieftain King Hintsa. He claims King Hintsa was killed by the Highlanders in May 1835, when he tried to escape during the Sixth Frontier War.

Colonel Murdo MacDonald said that only King Hintsa's ears, not his skull, had been removed and he was killed by George Southey, of the Corps of Guides, not the 72nd Highlanders. He was decapitated by Southey's brother William. "The head of the king is not in the museum, nor has it ever been," he said.

Chief Gcaleka, from Butterworth in the Eastern Cape, emerged to claim the skull was buried near a forest near by. "I saw a pony in my dream and when I went to that place today it ran to me," he said. "It is the pony I saw in my dream and it will guide me to the skull. The spirits will come to me again tonight and then I will find it."

Thomas makes tracks for a fat-free run along Hollywood lines



BRITT ALLCROFT

Thomas as British television viewers know him

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THOMAS the Tank Engine, the cheery storybook hero of the British steam-train era, is taking a branch line to Hollywood via small-town America. Paramount studios has signed the blue engine and his friends Percy, Henry, James, Gordon and the Fat Controller for their feature film debut.

Brit Allcroft, whose television adaptation of the Rev W Awdry's 1940s railway series has brought Thomas new fame, said yesterday that she would be writing and producing the film, *Thomas and the Magic Railroad*, and there would be minor alterations to the characters within the spirit of the original. In the American version of the TV series, the Fat Controller already goes by the less "fattist" name of Sir Topham Hat.

Ms Allcroft said the film would combine the animated characters with live characters from *Shining Time Station*, a children's series that her company makes for American television. It is about a small-town railroad community in the mythical Indian Valley and stars the comedy actor George Carling, who is expected to appear in the film.

"We are very excited by this wonderful opportunity to put a story onto the big screen that we hope children and grown-ups will enjoy and remember," she said. Ringo Starr, who provided the voiceover for the first television series in Britain, is not expected to participate.

The film will be shot in Britain's Shepperton Studios and the United States for release in 1997.

Thomas the Tank Engine first appeared in 1945, after Mr Awdry created him to amuse his son, Christopher, who had measles. Sales of the books remained steady until the early 1980s, when Ms Allcroft adapted the stories for television.

The series became a hit in 20 countries, with a particularly big following in America and Japan. Merchandising spin-offs, including a bedroom collection, clothing, toothbrushes and mugs, turned Thomas into a huge industry. Last year he earned gross licencing revenues of £1.2 billion.

Mr Awdry, 84, has criticised the television series — describing parts of it as "rubbish" and lamenting its "ignorance of railway practice" — but his family is understood to have earned an estimated £7 million from Thomas's international popularity.

☐ The British charity premiere of the film *Broken Arrow* — starring John Travolta and Christian Slater as Stealth bomber pilots caught up in a conspiracy to steal nuclear missiles — is to be held next month at a multiplex cinema in Bury, Greater Manchester, and hosted by the Manchester United football team.

Driver is remanded in Celine murder

A self-employed lorry driver appeared before magistrates at Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, yesterday, charged with murdering the French accountancy student Celine Figard between December 18 and 30 last year. Stuart Morgan, 36, of Poole, Dorset, was remanded in custody for a week.

Mlle Figard was last seen alive at the Chieveley service station on the M4 in Berkshire. Her body was found in a layby near Worcester ten days later. She had been strangled.

Gatting apology

The cricketer Mike Gatting received an apology and undisclosed damages in the High Court over an allegation in a book by Ivo Tennant, published by Cassel, that he epitomised the outlook of a racially prejudiced Englishman.

Carey for TUC

Dr George Carey will become the first Archbishop of Canterbury to address the TUC's annual conference when he speaks to delegates at next year's gathering. A venue for the congress has yet to be agreed.

Paisley funeral

The world of football paid its last respects to Bob Paisley, the former Liverpool manager who died last Wednesday at the age of 77. Current and former players of many clubs attended the funeral service at Woolton, near his home.

Sea crash deal

Survivors of the Cormorant Alpha helicopter crash in the North Sea in 1992, in which 11 people died, have reached out-of-court settlements with Shell and Esso. Lawyers for the companies and 53 claimants refused to discuss detail.

Aston debut

A new 150mph Aston Martin will make its debut at the Geneva Motor Show next month. The £139,000 V8 Coupé has a new 5.3 litre engine and can reach 60mph in six seconds. The first cars should be with customers by the end of May.

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Blair would not hesitate to sack errant ministers

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR pledged yesterday that he would dismiss any Labour ministers found guilty of breaching their duties to Parliament.

The Labour leader kept up the pressure over the Scott report by declaring that, if he came to power, he would not stand for ministers withholding information from MPs as had happened in the arms-to-Iraq affair. Ministers who broke the rules should not go unpunished.

Mr Blair, appealling to Tory MPs before next week's crucial vote in the Commons, said that the issue was one of parliamentary accountability. He told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4: "I would not hesitate for a minute if I was in Government, and an independent report that I had commissioned found my ministers in breach of the rules of parliamentary accountability and found them personally at fault, to say these ministers could not form part of my Government."

John Major, however, again defended the ministers criticised in the Scott report. In a reply to a letter from Mr Blair, he said that the basis of the Labour leader's attack was "quite wrong".

The outcome of the Scott report debate on Monday will hinge on a tiny number of Tory MPs known to be uneasy about ministerial behaviour after Sir Richard Scott's criticisms of William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell. One vocal backbench doubter, Peter Thurnham (Bolton NE), who has been threatening to leave the party, is due to meet the Prime Minister today to spell out his concerns.

The two ministers are given powerful support in a letter to *The Times* today from Lord Carrington, who resigned as Foreign Secretary over the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands. He writes that there is no parallel between his case and that of the two ministers.

"Mr Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell are two of the most honourable men in public life. If either of them felt that they had acted in any way improperly, they would at once have handed in their resignations to the Prime Minister. In my view, they are right not to have done so."

Mr Blair, in a letter to Mr Major on Tuesday night, said the Scott report pointed to a "deliberate failure to inform Parliament of a relaxation of its arms sales policy rules", and that the overriding reason for this was "fear of strong public opposition" to loosening restrictions.

Mr Major replied that Mr Blair had ignored the crucial point. "Sir Richard's complete sentence, which you only partially quoted, makes clear that the Government's concern was for the possible implications for British trading interests. You denied this, once again you were wrong."

The Prime Minister told the Commons this week that he did not believe that Mr Waldegrave had "deliberately misled" Parliament. He also said that Sir Nicholas had acted properly throughout the affair.

Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, told reporters at Westminster that a motion of no confidence in Mr Major would be the "inevitable" result of a Government defeat on Monday. If the Government lost a confidence vote, it would fall and a general election would ensue. But any Tories who rebelled or abstained on Monday would almost certainly support the Government on an issue of confidence.

Mr Cook, at the second joint news conference with the Liberal Democrats in the past six days, accused the Government of trying to "cheat Parliament" of a proper vote on whether the ministers criticised in the Scott report should resign. He said the vote would be based on a meaningless procedural motion that was a device to "save ministers the embarrassment of drawing up a real motion which would oblige them to come clean on whether they accept the Scott conclusions".

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat defence spokesman, said: "The Government is attempting to sideline Parliament."

Letter, page 19



Campaign to woo divorce law rebels

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS began an intensive campaign last night to head off a backbench rebellion over the Government's divorce law reforms.

As peers threatened yesterday to disrupt the Family Law Bill, ministers sent letters to all Tory MPs urging them to support plans to introduce no-fault divorce. A letter from Jonathan Evans, the junior minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, denies that the reforms will make divorce easier or that couples will be forced to accept mediation.

Ministers are anxious to limit the prospect of rebellion at an early stage, well before the Bill moves to the Commons in the Spring. They concede that the threat of rebellion in the Lords could set the mood for greater problems in the Commons, where the Government's majority is down to four. Up to 15 Tory MPs have voiced opposition to proposals to end the five-year and two-year periods for some divorces and replace them with a 12-month reflection period in all cases.

The letter says that the Bill will "ensure that people are made to face up to and come to terms with their responsibilities towards their first family before they are able to remarry and take on the responsibilities of a second."

In another move to win the support of backbench MPs, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has appointed Peter Luff as a Commons aide to ensure that MPs are consistently briefed on any changes to the Bill.

Baroness Young, a former Conservative Leader of the Lords, yesterday set out amendments to the Bill, which returns to the Lords today. She said she feared that the proposed changes, which would introduce no-fault divorce after 12 months, would undermine marriage and make divorce easier. Her key amendment is to lengthen the reconciliation period to 18 months, or only one year if both parties consent and there are no children.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY In the Commons: backbench debates; education and employment questions; the end Immigration Bill, report stage; debate on Glasgow's finances. In the Lords: wealth creation and social cohesion; Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill, second reading.
TODAY In the Commons: questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister; Asylum and Immigration Bill, remaining stages; debate on costs in libel cases. In the Lords: Humber Bridge (Debts) Bill; Family Law Bill, report stage; Business Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order; Hong Kong (Overseas Public Servants) Bill, third reading; European Communities (Amendment) Act — the Maastricht treaty legislation.

BBC staff mocked over 'poor English'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BBC sports commentators and children's show presenters were criticised in the Commons yesterday for their "incoherent" spoken English.

John Butcher, MP for Coventry South West, said that the Government should do more to raise standards of English on television. He told Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary: "You should write to the BBC children's TV department, whose presenters seem to be completely incoherent now, and ask whether those children's TV presenters have grade A to C in GCSE English, because if they have, we need to urgently re-examine the curriculum."

Mr Butcher added that Mrs Shephard should write to congratulate BBC sports presenters on their successful campaign to abolish the adverb. To laughter in the House, he cited the examples: "The boy done great" and "He did that quick."

"No sentence seems to finish proper," he concluded.

Ashdown embarks on tour of Britain

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PADDY ASHDOWN announced plans yesterday for a grand meet-the-people tour of Britain, saying he wanted to "smash the sterile political battle and dirty politics" of Westminster.

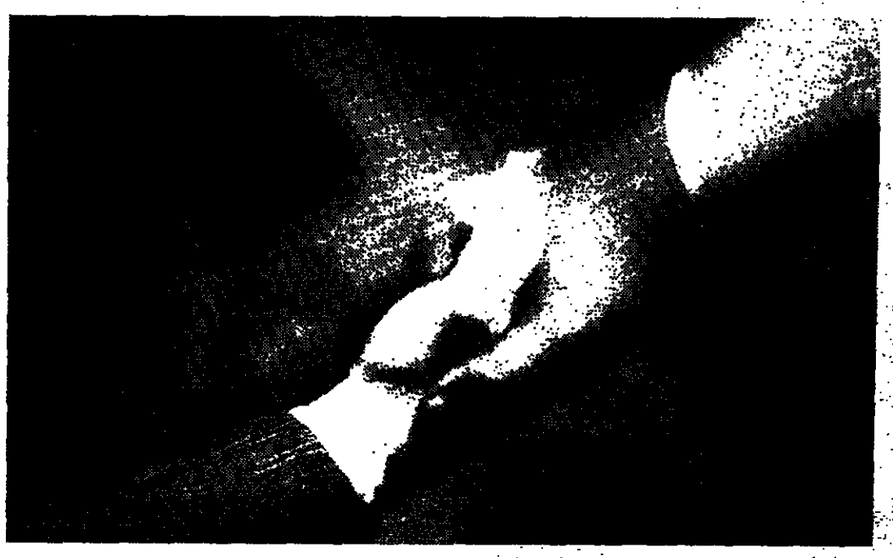
The Liberal Democrat leader promised to travel over 6,000 miles and cover 40 cities and towns meeting "real people" over eight months. In an attempt to blend in, he will leave his suit at home and travel in corduroys and Marks & Spencer jumpers.

The tour begins in Scotland tomorrow. Mr Ashdown said that he wanted to listen and learn from the voters. Only then could he know what they wanted in a manifesto.

"I am not going to be one of those party leaders descending to give his blessing on some surprised old lady or some woman trying to work on the factory floor," he said. He accused the other parties of being condescending to the voters and said they were out of touch with anything outside Westminster. "Unless politicians get out of Parliament and start engaging with people, the next election is going to be a complete turn-off. Westminster speaks in a language which people do not understand and behaves with a pomp, self-satisfaction and aggressiveness which offends many people," he said.

Mr Ashdown refused to say how much the tour would cost the Liberal Democrats, who are not renowned for their bulging coffers. But he said: "Here we have the bionic man. We'll do it somehow."

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UN fears Iraq may build missiles that can reach Britain

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations fears that Iraq may be trying to develop a long-range missile that could propel biological and chemical warheads as far as Britain.

UN weapons inspectors have launched an investigation after the discovery of gyroscopes from Russian-made intercontinental missiles, and Iraq's admission that its missile programme was much more extensive than previously known.

Iraq, now prohibited from possessing missiles that can fly further than about 94 miles, revealed last autumn that before the Gulf War it had been working on a new generation of missile engine with a range of 1,875 miles.

Particularly disturbing was the fact that the new missile's projected payload was a mere 440lb, militarily insignificant if packed with high explosives, but of about the size of the biological warheads that Iraq is known to have assembled on the eve of the Gulf War.

Suspicions that Iraq may have revived the programme were aroused by the interception of 115 sophisticated gyroscopes being shipped to Iraq through Jordan in November, and the subsequent discovery of more prohibited gyroscopes at the bottom of the Tigris Canal just outside Baghdad.

Western officials say the gyroscopes are of the type used in Russia's SSN19 submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missile, each of which contains three such devices. The instruments, which can guide a missile for up to 5,000 miles, were apparently sold on the black market after being taken from SSN19s dismantled under the Start treaty.

Caught red-handed, Iraq claimed the gyroscopes were imported by mistake and that it was actually seeking parts for its permitted short-range missile programme. But UN inspectors have alerted the Security Council that Iraq may be continuing to try to develop a long-range missile.

In his latest report last December, Rolf Ekeus, the chief UN weapons inspector, writes: "There is evidence that this acquisition is for long-range missiles and thus further indicates continued activities in Iraq in the area of proscribed missiles."

Iraq has admitted that it has conducted at least one covert missile programme since the Gulf War despite UN monitoring, attempting to convert Soviet-made SA2 surface-to-air missiles into a ground-to-ground missile with a range of 187 to 313 miles.

Security Council members are now eagerly awaiting the outcome of the UN investigation into Iraq's long-range missile programme.

Iraq has yet to account for 14,965 pints of anthrax it says it produced in the run-up to the Gulf War, and a missile with a range of 1,875 miles could put almost all of Europe under threat of a devastating biological attack.

"That range would miss London, but not by much," said one Western official. "They would hit somewhere in the middle of the English Channel, but it would certainly bring Paris into range. It may get as far as the southeast corner of Britain — the Kent coastline."

☐ Washington: Ukraine has been accused of selling or leasing Antonov aircraft to Colombia's notorious drug cartels. The report comes as President Kuchma arrived for a three-day visit during which he will meet President Clinton and senior White House officials. Kiev, Ukraine's capital, has denied the report. But the State Department said: "Obviously the report is disturbing." It is expected to be raised with Mr Kuchma. *(AP)*



An SA2 surface-to-air missile on its launch pad



A Serb woman leaves the Sarajevo suburb of Vogosca yesterday as the Muslim-Croat Federation prepared to take it over from Bosnia's Serb Republic tomorrow under the Dayton peace agreement. Tension rose in the Serb areas of Sarajevo last night and remained high in the divided Bosnian city of Mostar as it took hesitant steps towards reunification. About 150 desperate Vogosca residents, many of them weeping women, jammed a town meeting room to demand help from United Nations police, fearing reprisals for the 43-month Serb siege of Sarajevo. *(Reuter)*

Serbs flee Sarajevo

Black pupils run sjambok gauntlet

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

HUNDREDS of black pupils marched through a small Orange Free State town yesterday after clashes with whites in another violent encounter over admission to formerly whites-only schools.

On Tuesday, about 400 black pupils rampaged through Trompsburg after they were chased by a group of 20 white men armed with sjamboks and pickhandles. The children smashed windows and cars and set fire to a house.

The conflict began on Monday when black township pupils occupied the nearby Trompsburg Secondary School, saying they wanted access to empty classrooms. Hennie Serfontein, the school principal, said parents of the 95 white children chased the blacks away because they were "fed up". Businesses in the town were reported to be closed and the steets deserted yesterday as pupils marched to a police station where they handed over a petition.

The incident occurred just days after a judge, in a landmark ruling, ordered a white primary school to admit black pupils. Yesterday the judge, Tijibbe Spoelstra, quashed an appeal by the school in Potgietersrus, 160 miles north of Johannesburg, effectively forcing the school to open its doors to all. The dispute is set for a showdown today when Ngokoako Ramathlodi, Premier of the Northern province, leads 16 children to the classrooms under a heavy police guard.

Song and dance for women in their 120s

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE world's oldest person and France's least likely rap music star celebrated her 121st birthday yesterday with a champagne party and a cake ablaze with candles. Jeanne Calment entered *The Guinness Book of Records* last October as the oldest person whose lives. There have been other claimants to the title of oldest human being — Maria do Carmo Geronimo, a Brazilian who claims to be 124, is one of them — but only Mme Calment has birth records to prove her longevity.

This week, proving you are only as old as your taste in music, she released a compact disc, entitled *Mistress of Time*, on which she tells stories about her life to a background of funk-techno-rap music.

Mme Calment's birthday was celebrated at her nursing home near Arles, the southern French town where she was born on February 21, 1875. In Rio de Janeiro, Senhora Geronimo found a fitting role for a woman who claims to be the world's oldest person: roughly a century after her release from slavery, she rode on a carnival float dressed as the granddaughter of an historic Brazilian slave revolt leader.

Propped on top of the red-and-gold float that carried her through Rio's Sambadrome, she portrayed a mythical African princess, Aqualtune, whose grandson, Zumbi, led a slave revolt 300 years ago. Senhora Geronimo, surrounded by scantily-clad women, waved to the 90,000 singing and dancing spectators.



Jeanne Calment proclaims her age in Arles and, half a world away, Maria do Carmo Geronimo rides a Rio carnival float on her birthday

Suicide note on Internet

Sydney: An Australian boy triggered a four-hour police operation on both sides of the Pacific yesterday after he sent a message on the Internet saying that he was about to kill himself (Roger Maynard writes).

The 14-year-old boy's suicide note, which identified him as a 26-year-old man armed with a gun, was intercepted by police in Redmond, Washington State. American officers alerted the police in Perth, Western Australia, who, after a process of elimination from vague clues provided, knocked on the door of a suburban home at 3.30am.

Two bleary-eyed parents opened the door. Inside, the boy was still at his personal computer. The police said they would not be charging the boy.

Crime pays well for young Americans

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SOCIETY must apply market principles to crime prevention, according to a Harvard University economist with links to the Labour Party. Professor Richard Freeman found that the minimum wage was no match for the "starting wage" in the crime world.

Professor Freeman, who two years ago addressed a Labour economic summit in London, said the $4.25 (£2.75) minimum hourly wage was less than half what a young man can earn in the early stages of a career as a thief. He proposed government action to raise young employees' remuneration to $10 (£6.50) an hour, with tax breaks for employers.

More than half the minimum wage earners in America are under 25, and Professor Freeman noted that the bulk of people who turn to crime are young, less-skilled men. "Researchers went out and asked young people 'at what wage would you give up crime'," he said. "The answers were all roughly in the same ball park. Two years ago it was $8 an hour. Now it is $10. The solution to crime is either to lock people up, which costs a fortune, or to get more pay to people."

At present, he said, the young person facing a choice between a career in work or a career in crime "has nothing to lose" by choosing the latter. Crime simply pays better, added the professor.

WORLD SUMMARY

Tibetan captives escape

Hong Kong: Ten Tibetan prisoners being moved between jails escaped last month and their Chinese guard-driver was killed, according to reports (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

The driver may have died when his lorry swerved into a river after the prisoners threw chilli powder into his eyes. Four of the prisoners were monks, sentenced to three years for publicly condemning Peking's designation last year of a six-year-old boy as the eleventh incarnation of the Panchen Lama, Tibet's second highest lama. The Chinese barred the Dalai Lama's own choice, who has since disappeared with his family.

Rifkind names envoy to Tirana

Tirana: Malcolm Rifkind announced the appointment of the first Ambassador to serve in Albania, and won immediate praise from President Berisha (Michael Binyon writes). Making his first visit to Europe's most impoverished and formerly most isolated country, the Foreign Secretary said that Andrew Tesoriere, the chargé d'affaires, had been promoted to full Ambassador after a freeze lasting 45 years.

Detectives seize minister's papers

Johannesburg: Fraud squad detectives have seized documents from the home and offices of Abe Williams, 56, the South African Welfare and Population Development Minister, in a case relating to alleged favouritism in the granting of tenders to pension companies (Inigo Gilmore writes). Mr Williams is a Coloured member of the National Party.

Australia gets euthanasia law

Sydney: Australia's Northern Territory has passed what is believed to be the world's first law allowing terminally ill adults to ask doctors to end their lives. The Bill was first mooted by Marshall Perron, then Chief Minister, after his mother's death in 1994. He resigned to allow party members a free vote. *(Reuter)*

Defection move

Seoul: In an attempt to prevent embarrassing defections, North Korea is ordering the children of senior officials posted abroad to return home, reports in the South Korean capital said. *(AP)*



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هكذا في الاصل

New Hampshire win for coalition of conservatives, insecure workers and angry outsiders threatens

'Peasants' revolt' hands Buchanan the party crown

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

REPUBLICANS were in a state of shock and turmoil yesterday after Pat Buchanan's sensational victory over Robert Dole, the Senate leader, in Tuesday's New Hampshire primary.

Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor who finished a surprisingly strong third, demanded that Mr Dole should quit the presidential race so that mainstream Republicans could unite behind his own candidacy and defeat Mr Buchanan's protectionist and isolationist populism.

Mr Dole, although badly wounded, sought to ignore Mr Alexander, claiming that he was now in a two-man battle with Mr Buchanan for "the heart and the soul of the Republican Party" and calling it a "race between the mainstream and the extreme".

Mr Buchanan, delighted by the triumph of his "peasants' revolt", called on the party establishment to "behave like adults" and accept the people's verdict. "It's clear Pat Buchanan represents working class voters. I can bring them back ... We can put together a coalition that can beat Bill Clinton," he said.

REPUBLICAN DELEGATES ELECTED SO FAR

Alexander	9
Buchanan	28
Dole	16
Forbes	5
Gramm	5
Others	3

There are 1,990 delegates to the August 12-15 convention in San Diego, California, who will choose the Republican nominee.

New Hampshire exit polls showed 38 per cent of voters would have backed Colin Powell had he been a candidate. As a result, yesterday saw a new surge of speculation over whether or not the retired general could now be persuaded to run to save the party. Friends insisted that he was not interested, and there is in any case no mechanism for him now to enter the contest.

Former Vice-President Dan Quayle said the race was now a "free-for-all" that would last for weeks, and claimed his telephone had been "ringing off the hook" with friends pressing him to run. Commentators said the party had not been so divided since the conservative Barry Goldwater challenged Nelson Rockefeller's Eastern Establishment in 1964, and there was even talk of August seeing the first "brokered" nomination convention in nearly 50 years at which the party's candidate would be chosen in smoke-filled back rooms away from the public gaze.

President Clinton and his fellow Democrats were yesterday euphoric over the Republican disarray, which gives their party a sporting chance of both holding the White House and winning back Congress.

Mr Buchanan won 27 per cent of the vote, Mr Dole 26 and Mr Alexander 23 in the closest, costliest and ugliest New Hampshire primary ever. It was a humiliating defeat for the party's elder statesman, Mr Dole, 72, once enjoyed a 40 point lead in a tiny state where he had lost twice before. He had virtually the entire New Hampshire Republican establishment working for him and he spent millions to portray Mr Buchanan as a racist and extremist. But he still lost.

At a post-vote party he put a brave face on his defeat but was clearly devastated. "Now I know why they call this the Granite State — it's so hard to crack," he said before declaring war on Mr Buchanan. "Everyone who knows Bob Dole knows I'm a fighter," he said, reading from a prepared statement. "We're not going to give up ... In the next month we will decide if we are a party of fear or hope, whether we are a party that keeps people out or brings people in, whether we are angry about the present or optimistic about the future."

No Republican has ever won his party's nomination without first carrying New Hampshire, but Mr Dole may still do so. Apart from having much more campaign cash than his rivals, he has 24 of the nation's 31 Republican governors in his camp and formidable organisations in key states. But the danger is that many mainstream Republicans will now desert to the younger, more vibrant Mr Alexander, who constantly argued on television yesterday that only he could defeat "Buchananism" this spring and President Clinton in the autumn.

As Mr Alexander said: "All the king's men and all the king's horses" failed to save Mr Dole. "Why doesn't Senator Dole step aside and let me take on Mr Buchanan? My fresh ideas against his wrong ideas would make a very good race," he added.

There is no way the Republican Party can now deny Mr Buchanan a prime speaking slot at its August convention, even though his incendiary rhetoric at the 1992 convention cost the party dearly in the presidential election.

THE NEXT STAGE OF THE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN

Primaries and caucuses in the next month

February 24	Delaware (P)
February 27	Arizona (P), North Dakota (P), South Dakota (P)
March 2	South Carolina (P)
March 3	Puerto Rico (P)
March 5	Minnesota (C), Colorado (P), Connecticut (P), Georgia (P), Maine (P), Maryland (P), Massachusetts (P), Rhode Island (P), Vermont (P)
March 7	New York (P)
March 12	Florida (P), Mississippi (P), Oklahoma (P), Oregon (P), Tennessee (P), Texas (P)
March 19	Illinois (P), Michigan (P), Ohio (P), Wisconsin (P)
March 26	California (P), Nevada (P), Washington (P)

Key: Primaries (P), Caucus (C)



Pat Buchanan in confident mood as he awaited the outcome of voting in the vital New Hampshire primary

Anxieties of angry workers exploited

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PAT BUCHANAN compared his supporters to peasants with pitchforks storming the knights in the castle, but in reality the average Buchanan voter is white, working-class and angry.

Exit polls among Republicans in the New Hampshire primary, where Mr Buchanan was the narrow winner, showed that he had tapped into veins of anxiety about jobs being lost overseas and a culture losing its traditional values.

"Don't people get it?," asked Mary Powers, a retired librarian in New Hampshire, expressing exasperation at the snooty attitude of other Republicans towards Mr Buchanan's populist message. "We like what he says and what he stands for. Why is everybody always surprised by that?"

About 30 per cent of the men who voted went for Mr Buchanan as did a quarter of the women. Exit polls found that Mr Buchanan did better than all his main opponents among voters without college degrees.

He captured a third of those with incomes under $30,000 (£19,300) and another third earning between $30,000 and $50,000. He took more than half the voters who described themselves as conservative, as well as those who placed a high priority on a candidate's conservative values. Those portraying themselves as moderate or somewhat liberal understandably shied away from Mr Buchanan, dividing their loyalties between Robert Dole and Lamar Alexander.

Not surprisingly, Mr Buchanan garnered two-thirds of those who support the Republican Party's stance against legalised abortion and only 15 per cent of those who are pro-choice. The next most important issue for a majority of Buchanan voters was his get-tough trade policy and his pledge to prevent American jobs being lost overseas.

Pollsters had sounded a warning that the electorate in New Hampshire was volatile, but most of Mr Buchanan's supporters had established their loyalty to him in advance. Fewer than one in five opted for him at the last minute, as against a third of Mr Dole's voters and almost as many for Mr Alexander.

Voters liked Mr Buchanan's often exaggerated rhetoric. "Even if you don't agree with some of his views, he's passionate and takes a stand on issues," said Peter Hutchins, a New Hampshire lawyer. "The other guys waffle all over the place."

☐ **Washington:** President Clinton won 95 per cent of the vote in the Democratic primary, which the White House said was a modern record for a serving President without significant opposition. President Reagan, by comparison, received only 86 per cent in the 1984 New Hampshire Republican primary when he was unopposed. *(Reuter)*

William Rees-Mogg, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Outraged opponents pursue front-runner along trail of rhetoric

BY IAN BRODIE

WITH his loose tongue, ready quips, many years of columns, television commentaries and stumping for votes, Pat Buchanan has left a trail of inflammatory rhetoric that is returning to haunt him.

His words have given rise to charges by other Americans that he is anti-Semitic, racist, sexist and anti-homosexual. For as long as he remains front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, the criticism is likely to increase, with pressure for him to explain himself. Even in orderly New Hampshire, the police had to be called when Jewish activists exchanged taunts with Buchanan supporters and branded him a racist lacking only a Ku Klux Klan uniform. Far uglier demonstrations can be envisaged when the campaign reaches such cities as New York.

As an admitted political brawler and master of fiery polemic, Mr Buchanan is well aware of his power to infuriate and alienate. He knows, too, that many supporters agree with him.

Although he disavowed white supremacists, his denials often fail to carry conviction. For example, he once described Congress as "Israeli-occupied territory", a reference to the powerful Jewish lobby. When challenged, Mr Buchanan, a committed Roman Catholic, said: "That's a witty, irreverent line. What's wrong with it?"

> **"Rail as they will against discrimination, women are simply not endowed by nature with the same measure of single-minded ambition"**

He once described Hitler as racist and anti-Semitic to the core, but also "an individual of great courage, a soldier's soldier" and "a political organiser of the first rank". Of working women, he said: "Rail as they will against discrimination, women are simply not endowed by nature with the same measure of single-minded ambition and the will to succeed in the fiercely competitive world of Western capitalism."

He is pitiless about homosexuals and Aids. "They have declared war on nature and now nature is exacting an awful retribution," he said. Aids victims, in his view, are not victims of society, but have "killed themselves because they would not or could not control their suicidal appetites". Mr Buchanan announced in New Hampshire that, if elected, he would have no homosexuals in his Administration. Asked about blacks, he said: "I wouldn't rule it out."

He mixes his racist views with warnings about immigration. He once posed the question: "If we had to take in a million immigrants, say Zulus, next year, or Englishmen, and put them in Virginia, what group would be easier to assimilate and would cause less problems for the people of Virginia?"

He voices religious views seldom heard even inside an American church. "Our culture is superior because our religion is Christianity," he has said. "I believe it's superior to Buddhism and Taoism and other faiths."

Mr Buchanan's comments about Israel and Jews have generated the most hostility towards him. Arguing against the Gulf War, he said: "There are only two groups that are beating the drums for war in the Middle East — the Israeli Defence Ministry and its amen corner in the United States."

During the subsequent row, Mr Buchanan refused to retract, insisting that legitimate criticism of Israel did not make him an anti-Semite. But he did seem insensitive to Jewish feelings when he wrote that those doing the fighting would be "kids with names like McAllister, Murphy, Gonzales and Leroy Brown". He has also campaigned against alleged Nazi war criminals being deported from America to face trial.



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ANATOLE KALETSKY 27

Why Germans no longer trust the mark



BOOKS 34,35

Will Mandela's dream become a nightmare?



SPORT 39-44

Lara eclipsed as ruthless India thrash West Indies

NATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS
See section 3

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22 1996



STEWART GOLDSTEIN

Derek Loveday, a tailor, puts the finishing touches on Bob Leonard's Stars and Stripes jacket that makes up the new fashion line adopted by BA Futures, the London futures and options trading arm of Bank of America. The jackets should help BA's 18 traders to stand out in the Liffe floor

US utility holds talks on bid for nuclear industry

By Christine Buckley and Philip Bassett

THE Government is engaged in talks about a trade sale of the nuclear industry but could pull the float at any time right up until the pricing of the issue.

Tim Eggar, the Industry and Energy Minister, said yesterday that preliminary and indirect talks with Duke Power, a US utility that operates three nuclear reactors, had reached the stage of merchant bank negotiations. He indicated that there may be other potential bidders.

Mr Eggar said the flotation, due to take place in the summer and to be marketed to potential investors next month by BZW, the Department of Trade and Industry's advisers, was not unstoppable. "We can pull the float at any stage up to the pricing of the issue." GEC has been suggested by some sources as a possible buyer, although the company is understood to be uninterested in its present form in British Energy, the holding company for Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, but is monitoring the situation.

Duke Power said it was not happy with the price being mooted. British Energy has been forecast to achieve a price tag of £2.5 billion in a flotation, less than the £2.9 billion cost of building Sizewell B, and could be construed as a give-away and politically embarrassing. But a Duke Power spokesman, who said third-party talks had been conducted through Schroders, commented: "If the price was very attractive we would be interested but a lot of dollars would have to be shed."

Labour rounded on the Government, saying that consideration of a trade sale — after the DTI had said only weeks ago that it had received no approaches — was an admission that the privatisation was expected to fetch a poor price on the market.

John Battle, the party's energy spokesman, said: "Ministers have got it half right — they should call the flotation off because, as today's Trade and Industry Select Committee report shows, nuclear privatisation doesn't add up. But the alternative to a flotation must not be a 'closing-down sale,' with Britain's nuclear assets sold off abroad to raise a fast buck for Tory election tax cuts."

A big drag on any form of disposal of the nuclear industry is the £8 billion liabilities the business will carry for disposal of waste and decommissioning plants at the end of their lives. The select committee said that the nuclear industry would need a "miracle" to find a buyer if the Government maintained its policy of any purchaser taking over the liabilities.

The committee made clear that, in line with ministerial pronouncements, it recommended that any buyer or buyers of British Energy should take on its liabilities — though MPs privately accept that if that is the case, a sale is highly unlikely.

In its report on the industry, the committee agreed: "We strongly recommend that, whatever the level of liabilities, the liabilities should follow the assets from which they arose." Urging the Government to establish "more reliable" arrangements for the discharge of long-term liabilities after the closure of nuclear stations, MPs said that if the Government maintained its principle of liabilities following the assets then the sale could be jeopardised.

Martin O'Neill, the committee's chairman, said: "The Government has a long way to go before questions on the privatisation of the nuclear industry are fully answered."

Pennington, page 25

Drop in retail sales sparks talk of fresh cut in rates

By Alasdair Murray

AN UNEXPECTED slide in January retail sales has fuelled speculation that the Government will make a further cut in interest rates next month.

Retail sales fell 0.6 per cent last month in contrast to forecasts that had suggested a rise of 0.2 per cent. The scope for a rate cut was further underlined by the revelation that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, had only opposed the timing and not the principle of January's quarter-point rate cut. He next meets Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, on March 7.

A clutch of other economic data and the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report have also lent support to the view that inflationary pressures remain weak. Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC, said: "Any objections to a cut in interest rates as early as next month have been swept away by the last few sets of figures. Coupled with the signs of slowdown abroad, there is an overwhelming economic case to cut rates."

The gloomy outlook on the high street in January was blamed on the poor weather and the lottery, which claimed an extra £100 million in consumer spending due to the statistical freak of two double roll-overs in the month. The decline came despite drastic high street price cutting in the January sales.

December sales were also revised downwards to show monthly growth of just 0.1 per cent as opposed to the 0.4 per cent reported last month.

Sales in clothing, which fell by 1.2 per cent, and household goods, which declined by 1.9 per cent, were hit hardest. But the annual figures showed modest growth in retail spending, with sales in January up 2.3 per cent on January 1995. Sales over the three months from November rose 1.8 per cent on the same quarter in the previous year.

Ruth Parkhouse, an assistant director at the British Retail Consortium, said: "Consumers are not being lavish but we are seeing a modest pick-up in spending. This will be helped by the effect of interest rate cuts and tax cuts filtering through in the spring."

The publication yesterday of the minutes of the meeting between Mr Clarke and Mr George ended City speculation that there had been a serious disagreement between the Bank and Government over the rate cut to 6.25 per cent on January 18.

Mr George argued that the case for a cut in interest rates was "narrow" and that delaying a cut would ensure monetary credibility was preserved, but insisted he was "not seriously opposed" to the policy. The minutes also reveal that a great deal of debate centred on the need to employ smaller but more frequent rate cuts in a low inflation environment. The Bank has softened its line on inflation in recent months, with its quarterly report, published last week, concluding that inflation was likely to be less than 2.5 per cent two years from now.

The report also concluded that growth is fragile. Other important inflationary indicators, such as earnings growth, have remained flat, with only the M4 statistics showing worrying growth, the Government and the Bank attributing that to a statistical blip.

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3725.6	(+11.0)
Yield	3.89%	
FT-SE A All share	1836.15	(+4.03)
Nikkei	20372.23	(-283.44)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5514.16	(+55.63)*
S&P Composite	646.65	(+6.00)*

US MONEY

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	95⅛*	(94²⁄₃₂)
Yield	6.35%*	(6.39%)

UK MONEY

3-mth interbank	6⅝%	(6⅝%)
Life long gilt future (Mar)	107²⁄₃₂	(107³⁄₃₂)

CURRENCIES

New York:		
$	1.5433*	(1.5450)
London:		
$	1.5423	(1.5445)
DM	2.2414	(2.2443)
FFr	7.7290	(7.7325)
SFr	1.8296	(1.8279)
Yen	162.33	(163.80)
£ Index	83.7	(84.0)

GOLD

London:		
DM	1.4533*	(1.4475)
FFr	5.0110*	(4.9930)
SFr	1.1866*	(1.1790)
Yen	105.20*	(105.70)
$ Index	95.3	(95.7)

Tokyo close Yen 105.02

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	$17.20	($17.25)

METALS

London close	$397.15	($402.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Tecs blow

A House of Commons committee declared yesterday that the Government's Training and Enterprise Councils had made only a modest contribution to improved training in Britain. The Commons Employment Select Committee was "alarmed" at the way Tecs spend £1.7 billion of public money. Page 28

Chill damage

Household insurance premiums may rise this year as insurers try to cope with damage claims from the severe winter weather. Page 24

Halifax closures prompt warning

By Robert Miller

A LEADING finance union yesterday claimed that mergers among banks and building societies could bring a further 10,000 job losses by the end of the decade after the Halifax Building Society announced that it is to close 120 branches.

The Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu), said: "The rush by building societies to merge and become just like banks will mean fewer jobs and less customer choice. It will also mean control of those societies being handed from customers to the big shareholders of the City of London."

The 120 Halifax branch closures are in addition to 42 last August after the merger of the Halifax and Leeds building societies. The Halifax, which said that there would be no compulsory redundancies, plans to become a stock market company next year.

Bifu said: "It's sad, but the job losses at the Halifax are what we predicted. It also underlines our fear for the future of TSB branches following the Lloyds takeover, where we believe another 10,000 jobs are at risk."

Barclays Bank last night confirmed that 90 jobs would be affected by the closure of three of its cash centres.

The Labour MPs Derek Fatchett (Leeds Central) and Alice Mahon (Halifax) said yesterday's announcement showed that past assurances on job losses after the Halifax/Leeds merger "had no validity".

Pennington, page 25

Banks back identity card concept

BRITISH banks support the concept of an identity card scheme. They say it would make it easier for people to open bank accounts (Patricia Tehan writes).

In evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee, the British Bankers' Association said it supported the principle and believes "the time is right". The BBA said the more widely an identity card was held, the more likely it would be used and "a compulsory scheme might be preferable". The Government is expected to propose a voluntary scheme this year.

Sue Thornhill, BBA assistant director, said the opening of bank accounts are currently being denied to some people who cannot verify their identity.

Pennington, page 25

Names awarded £9.5m damages

By Sarah Bagnall

STEPHEN MERRETT, a former deputy chairman at Lloyd's of London, has six weeks to raise £500,000 as part of a £9.5 million court award made yesterday to a group of loss-making names.

The award is the first instalment of an estimated £300 million in compensation for losses incurred by 1,932 litigating names on Merrett syndicate 418. Last November the vast majority of the names won a high court action against the syndicate's auditor Ernst & Whinney, now part of Ernst & Young. Mr Merrett, the syndicate's underwriter, his agency, the Merrett Underwriting Agency, and about 60 members' agents.

Each defendant is jointly and severally liable for any compensation, the final level of which still has to be decided. If Mr Merrett or his agency fail to pay their share of the damages award, the burden will shift to E&Y. E&Y believes the final damages would be significantly less than £300 million and that its share could be as low as £15 million. John Mays, chairman of the Merrett action group, said E&Y could face a bill of as much as £150 million.

Mr Justice Cresswell yesterday agreed to the interim payment and said that a further award would be decided in the spring based on the claims paid by the syndicate.

Meanwhile, Chatset, the Lloyd's analyst, predicted that Lloyd's would announce a £1 billion profit this summer.

Gehe raises offer for Lloyds Chemists



Lloyds leap in value

By Sarah Bagnall

Gehe of Germany yesterday raised its offer for Lloyds Chemists to £650 million, while UniChem, a rival bidder, launched a dawn raid on the market, buying a 10 per cent stake in its target.

Gehe, Europe's largest drugs wholesaler, lifted its cash offer after an earlier £584 million bid was trumped last week by an increased offer of £630 million from UniChem. The manoeuvrings are the latest in a string of offers and counter-offers by the two companies that started in mid-January when UniChem launched a £544 million cash and share offer.

Both have now made two offers for Lloyds Chemists. However, only Gehe can raise its bid further. As a result of the changes, Allen Lloyd, chairman of Lloyds Chemists, has seen the value of his holding leap from £38 million under UniChem's original offer to about £46 million under the terms of Gehe's latest offer.

Gehe has raised its offer from 450p in cash for every Lloyds Chemists share to 500p in cash. That compares to UniChem's offer of 926p in cash and 16 new shares for every ten Lloyds Chemists shares, which values the group at 491p a share.

Yesterday's news lifted Lloyds Chemists shares 2p to 491p, while UniChem's shares rose 7p to 249p. Dieter Kammerer, chairman of Gehe, said: "Our increased offer is more than generous and compares favourably with the final UniChem offer. This is especially true given the potential risks that UniChem faces in integrating a group significantly larger than itself."

He also criticised UniChem's offer, claiming the company had no experience in making acquisitions of such a size and that it would be financially stretched by the deal. But Jeff Harris, UniChem's chief executive, rejected the claims, adding he was confident that its offer would win shareholders' approval.

Lloyds Chemists is Britain's second largest pharmacy chain with 924 outlets and a 30 per cent share of the UK drugs wholesale market. Gehe, which is majority-owned by Franz Haniel, a private company, entered the UK market last year with the £400 million acquisition of AAH.

Tempus, page 26

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Weather threat to premiums casts cloud over CU record

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

PERSONAL household premiums may rise this year as UK insurers cope with multi-million pound damage claims caused by the severe winter weather.

Commercial Union, which yesterday unveiled record pre-tax profits for the year to December 31, paid out £33 million for weather damage, most of it caused by the cold snap in the last week of 1995. More than £13 million went to compensate damage to domestic properties, while the rest was for commercial buildings. Subsidence claims were £26 million higher than in 1994.

Cees Schrauwers, general manager of CU's non-life products, said that the cost of household premiums depended on the weather over the rest of the winter, and on competition in the market.

This week, Guardian Royal Exchange revealed that it had set aside £25 million to pay for winter weather damage claims up the end of last year. The industry as a whole is predicting a squeeze on margins.

Total pre-tax profit at CU was up 14 per cent, at £509 million, and life profits, accounting for 43 per cent of total premiums worldwide, were £87 million higher, at £244 million. Mr Schrauwers said that bad weather since the start of this year had cost a further £10 million.

Car insurance, however, was unlikely to cost more, he said, "particularly because of the competition from the direct insurers". In the household insurance market, composite insurers will face competition in June from the Halifax, the biggest building society, when it transfers its £300 million household buildings and contents insurance account to Royal Insurance.

CU also revealed that it did not expect claims arising from the IRA bomb in Docklands, east London, to exceed £5 million for damage to households. Like rivals, its liability is limited to £100,000 for commercial property. The company's share price rose 16p to 614p yesterday.

John Carter, chief executive, said that having 69 per cent of premiums outside of the United Kingdom, and the stabilising effect of the life business would be important "as the cyclical downturn in the UK takes effect".

In France, pre-tax profit was £89 million (£8 million loss), and included a full year from Abeille vie and Abeille assurances, while in The Netherlands, Delta Lloyd's pre-tax profit rose £62 million, to £162 million, including £118 million of life profits.

In North America, pre-tax profit rose £8 million, to £74 million, although catastrophe claims of £43 million were £7 million higher than in 1994.

Tempus, page 26



Peter Ward, an executive director, left, John Carter, chief executive, and Tony Wyand, an executive director

Two-speed ERM plan to ensure stability

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission has drawn up proposals for a two-speed exchange-rate mechanism in an effort to ensure currency stability between the euro and currencies excluded from the single currency plan.

Outlines of a future arrangement based on the existing exchange-rate mechanism are emerging from studies by the Brussels Commission, the European Monetary Institute and the monetary committee of national treasury officials.

The scheme is deemed vital to the success of monetary union. It seeks to answer fears among likely EMU members and non-qualifying states over the risks of instability among excluded currencies after the launch of the euro on January 1, 1999.

Under proposals to the EU monetary committee, countries coming close to meeting the Maastricht criteria on convergence — the entrance test for EMU — but not joining the single currency, would submit to narrower bands than the 15 per cent range each side of a target value which operates at present.

The strong-currency countries, already labouring under the disadvantage of "competitive devaluation", see it as a way to protect themselves from further devaluations by weak currency countries, including Britain, Italy and Spain.

Alain Juppé, France's Prime Minister, has proposed making all EU payments to the non-EMU countries in their local currency to deprive them of profiting from exchange rate benefits.

But Britain is offering an alternative scheme that would focus on keeping inflation rates within fixed targets.

EEF seeks Labour role

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S engineering industry yesterday asked to take part in the Labour Party's task force on industrial competitiveness in what is thought to be the first formal move by business to join Labour in preparing for government.

In what is likely to be a controversial move, the Engineering Employers' Federation yesterday said that it would like to be a member of the task force or take an active step in forming policy in it on competitiveness for Labour in advance of a general election.

The EEF move is likely to be seen as embarrassing to the Government, since the federation is considered one of the more traditional bastions of industry, in which support for the Conservatives runs deep.

Yesterday, however, the EEF's governing council was addressed by Margaret Beckett, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, and the group made public its desire to be involved in one of Labour's pre-election industrial task forces.

Set up under the Industry Forum, a body created by Labour to be a bridge between the party and business, there are now six task groups forming policy that will feed into a Labour statement on business to the party conference in the autumn.

Recently, Sir Terence Conran, founder of Habitat, declared his support for Labour at the launch of one of the task groups, on design and innovation, on which he is serving.

However, EEF council members made clear, in the meeting addressed by Mrs Beckett, their opposition to Labour's intention to sign up to the social chapter and to apply a national minimum wage, which members consider a threat to Britain's competitiveness.

Bremer Vulkan files for creditor protection

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

BREMER VULKAN, the troubled German shipbuilder, has announced 1995 losses of DMI billion and filed for protection from its creditors after failing to secure an eleventh-hour rescue package to keep it afloat.

Bremer Vulkan, Germany's largest shipbuilder, yesterday said: "After extensive negotiations with politicians, the European Union and banks, the board has to take the step of beginning composition proceedings since many of its units are insolvent."

Composition proceedings are aimed at rehabilitating an insolvent business by scaling down indebtedness, with creditors asked to forego a certain percentage of what the company owes them over a specified time period.

However, analysts said the move may do little more than delay Bremer Vulkan's bankruptcy, since creditors are unwilling to pump more money into a struggling shipbuilding industry, which faces cut-throat competition from Asian and Scandinavian yards.

Ernst & Young attacks 'radical' ASB changes

BY ROBERT BRUCE

IN AN unprecedented move, the giant accounting firm of Ernst & Young has issued a vehement attack on the changes in UK financial reporting practice being pioneered by the Accounting Standards Board. The firm has published a report entitled *The ASB's Framework — Time To Decide*. It concentrates on the recent ASB consultative draft of its "statement of principles". Nick Land, the senior partner, calls the ASB draft "theoretical to the point that they are scarcely comprehensible by most accountants and other businessmen".

The report, written by technical partner Ron Paterson, argues that traditional accounting methods are being discarded in favour of a radical theoretical agenda. He calls the proposed framework "fundamentally misguided" and says that "it strives for an accountant model that we do not believe is desirable, based on principles that we do not consider to be workable".

The changes come about as a result of the ASB's remit, which was to close the loopholes and grey areas that brought financial reporting into disrepute at the end of the 1980s.

Senior partners of other firms are backing Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB. John Roques, senior partner at Deloitte and Touche, said he was disappointed and surprised by the Ernst & Young attack. He said the ASB had done very well. "To describe them as radical is ludicrous."

American groups cut 1,000 UK jobs

MORE THAN 1,000 UK job losses were announced yesterday under two American companies' rationalisation plans. Most of the redundancies relate to 700 jobs that could go after Cummins, the US manufacturer of diesel engines for heavy-duty trucks, announced the closure of its plant at Shotts, Lanarkshire. Cummins Engine Company, which has a UK workforce of about 5,000, will close its Shotts engine plant and plans a phased redundancy programme at the site as part of global rationalisation, announced last year, involving the worldwide loss of 2,000 jobs from a group workforce of 27,000. Some of the 700 Shotts employees will be offered relocation to other Cummins operations.

About 300 jobs will also be lost at Kimberley-Clark's paper mill at Maidstone, Kent. The redundancies, which were predicted last month, come after the merger with the fellow paper group Scotts. Kimberley-Clark said that it hoped that a voluntary scheme would minimise compulsory redundancies.

Canadian Pizza slips

CANADIAN PIZZA, the pizza base and topping company that has issued three profits warnings since it floated two years ago, has cut its dividend after suffering a sharp drop in profits. Pre-tax profits slumped to £1.41 million (£2.33 million) in the year to December 31 as turnover dipped to £14.2 million (£15.6 million). The total dividend has been sliced to 4.8p (6p), with a reduced final of 2.4p (3.6p) payable on May 8, from earnings down to 5.9p (9.8p) a share. It was also announced that Andrew Dare, non-executive chairman, has resigned and will be immediately replaced by Barry O'Connell, a director.

Forex firm to close

STEPS by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) to bring foreign exchange traders into the regulatory net, have resulted in the closure of a City firm. Alexmuir Management (UK) has informed the SIB that it intends to cease business. This follows the issuing of guidance by the SIB earlier this month, concerning the need for firms offering certain services in the speculative foreign exchange currency markets to seek authorisation. It said that firms not already authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986 would have until March 1 to decide whether to seek authorisation or cease business.

Mediaset to be floated

SILVIO BERLUSCONI, the former Italian prime minister, said that Mediaset, the broadcasting and advertising company controlled by Fininvest, his family's media group, will be quoted on the Milan stock exchange by late June. Mediaset owns three national TV stations and Publitalia, the country's largest advertising agency. Signor Berlusconi is seeking to reduce his stake in Mediaset to deflect criticism of conflicting commercial and political interests. He recently sold a minority stake to a group of international investors, including Prince al-Waleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia.

Gas consumers lose out

THE service offered by the Gas Consumers' Council is deteriorating because of its reduced budget and the increased workload created by a 106 per cent rise in complaints about British Gas. In this year's funding round, the independent council, which is indirectly funded by a levy on British Gas, asked for an increase of 11 per cent. However, the Department of Trade and Industry sealed the increase at 4.28 per cent, giving the council a budget of £2.92 million. Ian Powe, the council's director, said: "If complaints increase, the industry's contribution to our work should increase proportionately."

Support for TransCo

TRANSCO, British Gas's pipeline operation, said yesterday that it had been vindicated in its valuation of its own business by an independent review.

The valuation is sensitive ahead of the 1997 price control formula review that is scheduled to be announced by Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, in the summer.

TransCo had been widely criticised for placing a figure of £18.2 billion at net book value for its business, with a replacement cost of £32.4 billion. The review by Arthur Andersen was undertaken in response to criticism levelled at the operation and involved TransCo and gas shippers that use the pipeline.

[illegible]

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.15	1.99
Austria Sch	16.75	15.25
Belgium Fr	49.06	44.78
Canada $	2.242	2.062
Cyprus Cypr	0.763	0.698
Denmark Kr	9.28	8.48
Finland Mkk	7.57	6.92
France Fr	8.14	7.49
Germany Dm	2.39	2.18
Greece Dr	392.00	367.00
Hong Kong $	12.61	11.61
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Snk	5.1700	4.5200
Italy Lire	2549.00	2394.00
Japan Yen	176.80	160.80
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.661	2.431
New Zealand $	2.43	2.21
Norway Kr	10.39	9.59
Portugal Esc	244.50	226.00
S Africa Rd	nil	5.83
Spain Pta	196.00	183.00
Sweden Kr	11.20	10.40
Switzerland Fr	1.96	1.78
Turkey Lira	99818.0	94318.0
USA $	1.644	1.514

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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for the exploitation of the Rail Container Terminal at Coslada (Madrid, Spain), and traffic flows between the ports of Bilbao, Valencia, Barcelona and Algeciras with Madrid.

- Puerto Seco de Madrid, S.A., formed by Puertos del Estado, the Port Authorities of Bilbao, Valencia, Barcelona and Algeciras, and SEPES, officially announces the selection process for the exploitation of a terminal located in the Logisticas Activities Area at Coslada/Barajas, in Madrid.
- Documentation for this selection can be obtained, after the 20th February, from Puertos del Estado, Secretaría General, Avda. del Partenón, 10 Campo de las Naciones, 28042 MADRID, SPAIN (Tel. 341/524 55 00 Ext. 1210. FAx 341/524 55 02). Tenders should be submitted by hand, at the abovementioned address, before 14.00 on the 20th March of this year.

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Voting papers to arrive no later than Tuesday 5 March 1996

COMPAGNIE FINANCIÈRE OTTOMANE GROUP

Results for the year ended 31 December 1995

	Investment Business Outside Turkey 1995 FRF '000	Investment Business Outside Turkey 1994 FRF '000	Banking Business in Turkey 1995 FRF '000	Banking Business in Turkey 1994 FRF '000	Total Group Result 1995 FRF '000	Total Group Result 1994 FRF '000
Net interest income	8 684	(21,580)	169 104	269,571	177,848	247,991
Investment income	4,805	30,302	146,992	113,683	151,797	143 985
Gain on sale of investments	95	(30,867)	46,475	74,076	46,530	34,209
Gains on revaluation of listed investments	13,613	5,839	—	—	13,613	5,839
Commission income	454	1,143	40,997	36,125	41,451	37,268
Rental income	8,698	9,598	68	68	8,815	9,666
Foreign currency gains	21,547	32,472	28,312	99,616	49,859	132,088
Other	—	—	1,088	114	1,088	114
	57,894	17,907	433,107	593,233	491 001	611,140
Operating expenses	19,248	21,046	161,256	182,958	180,504	204,004
Charge for bad and doubtful debts	—	—	14,673)	17,819	14,673)	17,819
Operating profit before tax	38,646	(3,139)	276,524	392,456	315,170	389,317
Current tax	(2,622)	6,383	90 170	106,467	87,548	110,850
Operating profit after current tax	41,268	(9,522)	186,354	285,989	227,622	278,467
Deferred tax					(39,586)	—
Net translation loss					185,192)	180,505)
Profit after tax attributable to shareholders					122,854	97,962
Distributions proposed					77,500	69,167
Profit retained					FRF 45,354	FRF 28,795
Earnings per share					FRF 24.57	FRF 19.59
Capital Resources					FRF 1 187.515	FRF 1,142,183

Exchange rate TL/FRF 12,650 (1994: 7,145 TL)

The directors recommend, subject to approval at the AGM on 15 May, the increase of the dividend from FRF 12.50 per share below tax to FRF 14.00 per share before tax. If approved, the dividend and distributions under Article 36 of the Statutes will be payable on 22 May 1996.

	1995 FRF	1994 FRF '000
Dividend of FRF 14.00 per share - Coupon 123 (1994: FRF 12.50 per share)	70,000,000	62,500
Founders' Shares @ FRF 17,361 per share - Coupon 66 (1994: FRF 15,432 per share)	3,750,000	3,333
Directors	3,750,000	3,334
	77,500 000	69,167

The consolidated net profit for the year attributable to shareholders after taking into account the net translation loss on funds employed in Turkey increased by 25% from FRF 97,962 million in 1994 to FRF 122,854 million.

Wider business conditions stabilised in the first half of the year following the 1994 financial crisis, political uncertainty increased again during the second half year. The net trading result of the Turkish banking subsidiary, Ottoman Bankasi, in local currency terms rose from TL 2,042 billion in 1994 to TL 2,538 billion in 1995. The inflation rate steadily increased and the TL/FRF exchange rate fell, ending the year at TL 12,650 to the French Franc compared with TL 7 145 78 at the 1994 year end. At group level the profit contribution of Ottoman Bankasi reflects the net translation loss on shareholders' funds in Turkey.

Outside Turkey, the investment performance was significantly better than in 1994 but with lower yields. The fall in interest income and increase in revaluation gains on listed investments, compared with 1994, reflects the movement into more liquid deposits and into the balanced fund introduced late year. The foreign currency gains arise from hedging positions taken during the year to protect part of the group funds invested in Turkey. The recovery of tax in respect of 1994 losses

Notes

Annual General Meeting: 11 30am Wednesday 15 May 1996 at Banque Paribas Luxembourg, 10A Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg.

The Report and Accounts for 1995 will be available at Compagnie Financière Ottomane SA, 23 Avenue de la Porte-Neuve, L-2227 Luxembourg, at Ottoman Financial Services, King William House, 2A Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AA and at Compagnie Financière Ottomane SA, 7 Rue Meyerbeer, 75009 Paris, France

21.2.1996

COMPAGNIE FINANCIÈRE OTTOMANE SA

Annual general meeting 1996

Notice of meeting

The annual general meeting for the year 1996 of Compagnie Financière Ottomane SA will be held on Wednesday 15 May 1996 at 11.30 am at Banque Paribas Luxembourg, 10A Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg to transact the following business:

Resolutions

1. To receive the report and adopt the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 1995.
2. To approve the proposed distributions.
3. To discharge the directors and auditors.
4. To re-elect Monsieur Jacques de Fouchier, Monsieur Christian Manset and Sir John Smith as directors.
5. To reappoint Deloitte & Touche as auditors.

Monsieur J Winandy, Secrétaire Général
Compagnie Financière Ottomane SA
23 Avenue de la Porte Neuve
L-2227 LUXEMBOURG

Notes

To attend the general meeting, holders of bearer shares must deposit their shares at least 10 days before the date fixed for the meeting:-

In Luxembourg at the head office of the company at the above address.
In London, at Ottoman Financial Services, King William House, 2A Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AA.
In France, where shares are deposited with SICOVAM, shareholders must advise the blocking of their shares through their deposit agent either to Banque Paribas, 3 Rue d'Antin, 75002 Paris or to Compagnie Financière Ottomane, 7 Rue Meyerbeer, 75009 Paris.

The report and the accounts which will be presented to the general meeting are available to the shareholders at the head office in Luxembourg and at the offices in London and Paris.

22 February 1996

☐ An American buyer for British Energy? ☐ Bankers support personal IDs ☐ Making sense of retail sales

Dukes of nuclear hazard

☐ WHEN potential customers dither, what better to help to make up their minds than a stranger keen to buy the whole stock. Before privatisation of conventional power generators, PowerGen looked destined to be the unregarded also-ran to National Power. But that all changed when Lord Hanson did ministers a good turn by putting his company forward as preferred bidder in a possible trade sale.

If Hanson thought PowerGen was worth the once-over, it would surely rise in the opinions of City fund managers. So it did, and Hanson's initial enthusiasm has proved well-founded.

Would the Government have sold to Hanson, then indubitably led by "one of us", rather than to the great British public? In the event, that issue was not put to the test. Hanson's price ideas failed to excite the Treasury.

This time it could be different. Duke Power, the American utility now in talks to buy British Energy, has no overt motive to help out John Major's government. It must be serious. With Tim "Schwarzen" Eggar at the helm, it would also be unwise to rule out the politically unthinkable. After mass pit closures, the Brent Spar affair and the sack of British Gas, the muscular, soon-to-depart industry minister might revel in the backlash against selling our nuclear industry to a foreign utility at a fraction of its cost.

On the surface, British Energy is a great proposition. Its big investment phase is over, cash-flows are strong and, by virtue of its role in providing 24-hour baseload power, its market share is secure for the life of its plants.

New nuclear stations are ruled out for years ahead, so the main purpose of investment is to sustain corporate momentum and keep ambitious managers busy. For a foreign buyer, non-nuclear investment would be optional, along with much of the 1.8 per cent of turnover devoted to R&D. As for those promises to the Scots — well, after Guinness and Britoil, they are used to having them broken.

As each veil is lifted on the sale plans, however, the more ammunition City doubters garner. The Trade and Industry Select committee, hardly radical, argued for much higher annual contributions to the segregated sinking fund for decommissioning and other nuclear liabilities with an estimated present value of £7.6 billion. This is needed because taxpayers are eternal but private companies are only human. It is also hard to justify taxpayers accepting liability for the uninsured cost of nuclear accidents above £140 million.

In a public sale, the price will inevitably be pushed scandalously low by such niggles, along with Opposition muttering and fears that the shares will glow in the dark. For taxpayers, the correct response is not to make a trade sale abroad, but gradual privatisation. If only a third of British Energy were initially sold, taxpayers could benefit if and when experience breeds confidence in its performance in the private sector.

Mistaken over identity cards

☐ IDENTITY cards, like republicanism and armed policemen, have always been deemed acceptable abroad but incompatible with the British way of life. The armed police are by now inevitable, and republicanism has its attractions. But there is still time to resist ID cards.

The idea has the backing of

PENNINGTON



senior ministers, which is one strike against it. The British Bankers' Association also supports identity cards, even if yesterday's consultative document steered conveniently clear of the real reasons. The banks bear much of the cost of credit card and other fraud, and are also under growing government pressure to crack down on money laundering.

A workable system that stopped the passing of stolen cheques or credit cards would require little more than a picture of the user on the relevant card, a process well within the abilities of existing technology. Most of the banks have failed to provide this, and they now prefer to throw the responsibility, and presumably the expense, onto the Government via ID cards.

As to money laundering, nearly all of this, the banks accept, is done through corporate accounts rather than personal ones. Requiring someone to produce an ID card before opening an account will have little impact on international crime. It would, however, deny access to banking to those unwilling to carry a card while providing the banks with the ideal excuse if it is later proven that any account is put to the wrong use.

ID cards are another example of the shift in policing away from those who commit crimes and towards those who are rather easier to catch, the majority of law-abiding citizens. Car drivers, if they choose to exceed the speed limit, already know they are more likely to be caught and prosecuted than the professional thief who burgles their car for a living.

An identity card system that was affordable would be no bar to criminals — indeed the provision of fake IDs would provide an income for a whole new profession of them. But it would throw instant and unwarranted suspicion on any respectable member of the public who did not feel like carrying one.

Marching towards more rate cuts

☐ THERE would seem to be no reason, other than sheer perversity, why the last base rate cut on January 18 should not be followed by another the next time the Chancellor and Governor of the Bank of England meet on March 7. Eddie George has by now made it sufficiently clear, in the minutes for January's meeting and elsewhere, that he stands for the forces of caution and responsibility. It is up to Kenneth Clarke to set the pace.

This was the response yesterday on the gilts pitches at any rate to a weak set of retail sales figures. The only question was the extent that special factors had sucked the growth out of the January figures.

The Bank of England's *Inflation Report* last week made it clear that, in the past, forward forecasting has been wrong as often as it has been right, but that as far as anyone knows, inflation targets will be met. The preference is for gradual, quarter-point cuts of the type we have been seeing.

As to the one-offs distorting the January sales, the weather was indeed lousy but monthly figures are notoriously volatile anyway. Two rollovers on the Lottery had some effect but will eventually show up in consumer spending figures. Underlying the numbers was a clear sign of a slow-down in consumer spending. If this continues, a further rate cut will become politically essential.

Numbers game

☐ THE HALIFAX is adopting a "softly, softly" approach to demanning, as would be expected by a cuddly building society. Once a bank and quoted on the stock market, a rather harsher view may prevail. The big clearers have come in for enough criticism over job losses, but most accept there is further to go. For the purposes of crude comparison, the NatWest employs on average fewer than 22 people per branch. The Halifax, which would slot in as Britain's third biggest bank, will employ 26 people — but only if union fears of 1,000 job cuts, unconfirmed by the Halifax yesterday, are well-grounded.

French revamp aerospace and stir BAe hopes

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

FRANCE has triggered the long-awaited restructuring of its defence and aerospace industries. In a move that will clear the way for overdue joint ventures and more collaboration with British and German rivals, President Jacques Chirac will today announce a committee to engineer a merger of state-owned Aérospatiale, the civil aircraft group, and Dassault, builder of the Mirage and Rafale fighters and Falcon business jets.

Thomson, the defence and consumer electronics holding company, is to be privatised later this year, the office of Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, said yesterday. Thomson is widely seen as a potential partner for GEC, whose GEC-Marconi arm is Britain's second-biggest defence group after British Aerospace.

GEC-Marconi and Thomson CSF, Thomson's £4.6 billion a year defence arm, are already extending their collaboration in submarine sonars, Ferranti Thomson Sonar Systems, and have formed a joint company, GDTAR, to develop a common radar to upgrade the Rafale and the Eurofighter being developed by Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Defence industry executives believe that the French are anxious to create an Anglo-French counterweight to the growing French-German axis embracing missiles, satellites and helicopters. "GEC is an obvious partner for Thomson," said one. GEC-Marconi declined to comment. Its parent has already established a massive 50-50 Anglo-French joint venture in power systems and railway equipment, GEC Alsthom.



Dassault, maker of Rafale fighter aircraft, faces a merger

The French government has yet to decide whether to split out Thomson Consumer Electronics, which makes television sets and hi-fis around the world. However, in an unexpected move, Alain Gomez, chairman of Thomson since 1982, is being replaced by Marcel Roulet, past chairman of France Telecom. France Telecom has 20 per cent of the shares and the state 76 per cent. Trading in the tiny quoted portion was suspended for the announcement yesterday.

BAe, meantime, will be seeking opportunities arising from the moves to restructure France's technically advanced but financially weak aircraft industry.

The British group is working with Dassault to develop a strike aircraft to replace ground-attack versions of Britain's Tornado jets and the French Mirage in the next century. It has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus Industrie, the civil jet consortium in which Aérospatiale and Daimler-Benz of Germany each control 37.7 per cent.

President Chirac is reported to have told Serge Dassault, founder of the family-controlled warplane group, in which the government has a stake: "Dassault is too small, especially on a European level."

'Doubts' on Nadir broker

A stockbroker employed by Asil Nadir traded almost exclusively in Polly Peck International (PPI) shares on behalf of various Swiss-based companies, and was frequently late in settling the transactions, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Jason Davies, who worked from Geneva, once blamed a hurricane in the Cayman Islands for late settlement with AJ Bekhor, a stockbroking firm. Once, a debt for £307,000 was settled 11 days late.

Hugo Berke, former compliance officer at the firm, told the court of his "doubts" about Mr Davies's dealings on behalf of Riverbridge, Newbridge and Gateway. He had raised his concerns with Mr Davies, who assured him that the companies were not connected. Mr. Berke was giving evidence at the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, former chairman of South Audley Management. Mrs Forsyth, 59, denies handling £307,000 and £88,050 in funds allegedly stolen by Mr Nadir from PPI.

T&N advances

T&N, the automotive component and engineering group, announced a rise in pre-tax profits in T&N Holdings, its South African division, to R56.1 million (£9.58 million) for the year to December 31 (R41.6 million).

Payout lifted

Foreign & Colonial's Enterprise investment trust celebrated a 23.2 per cent increase in net asset value by raising its final dividend 50 per cent to 1.2p in the year to December 31. Cash realisations totalled £25.8 million.

Torex expands

Torex Hire, the tool hire company, has bought STL, a developer and supplier of computer based management systems, for £2.65 million cash and an issue of seven million ordinary shares.

Elf held back by flagging chemicals and refining

By Carl Mortished

THE downstream oil activities of Elf Aquitaine, the French energy and pharmaceuticals group, are being hit by refining overcapacity in Europe and petrol price competition in France and the UK.

A surge in oil production and recovery in chemicals helped Elf to achieve a 65 per cent rise in net income to Fr5 billion last year. However, Philippe Jaffré, chairman and chief executive, said the second half had been affected by a flagging of the favourable trend in chemicals and deteriorating refining margins. The company sold the Texasgulf chemicals business at the beginning of last year, and M. Jaffré said Elf would continue to cut costs and dispose of non-core assets. He announced a new target for the group of a 10 per cent return on equity by 1998.

Elf's exploration and production profits rose from Fr6.9 billion to Fr8 billion after an 8 per cent boost to oil and gas production, mainly in the UK and Norway. Average oil prices rose from $15.80 in 1994 to $17 last year, but much of the currency gain was lost because of the weaker franc.

Elf plans to invest Fr50 billion upstream over the next five years and is seeking a third leg to add to its areas in the North Sea and West of Africa. A further Fr10 billion will be invested downstream. Elf's refining operations only broke even last year, while chemicals contributed Fr5 billion (Fr1.8 bilion). Elf is maintaining the net dividend at Fr13 per share.

Tempus, page 26

Vodafone warning

VODAFONE, the largest mobile phone company, said yesterday that increased price competition among the four main operators in Britain will put a damper on its profits growth in the forthcoming year.

The company is reducing the tariffs on its digital service by up to 30 per cent in April, largely in response to lower tariffs introduced by other operators, notably Orange.

Vodafone said capital spending will reach £450 million in the year to March 31, rising to £700 million next year.

☐ BT has formed a joint venture with MCI of the US and three others to bid for licences for an international telecoms service in Israel.

COMMERCIAL UNION

12 MONTHS' RESULTS

Record profits

- 14% growth in pre-tax operating profit to £509m.
- Full year dividend increased by 7% to 28.25p.
- Strong profit growth from operations outside the United Kingdom.
- Life profits £87m higher at £244m.
- Shareholders' funds up 30% to £4,074m.

	12 months 1995 Unaudited	12 months 1994 Restated Unaudited
Total premium income	£8,647m	£6,762m
Operating profit before taxation	£509m	£446m
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	£634m	£480m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£444m	£379m
Operating earnings per ordinary share	52.1p	55.0p
Dividend per ordinary share	28.25p	26.40p
Shareholders' funds	£4,074m	£3,143m

1. Profit on ordinary activities before taxation includes realised investment gains of £130m (1994 £45m) and a net loss on termination of activities of £5m (1994 £11m).
2. The 1994 profit and loss account has been restated to reflect the change to a two year fund basis of accounting for certain London market business, which increased profits by £30m.
3. The results of the operating subsidiaries of Groupe Victoire, which are now incorporated within CU France, were consolidated for the first time in the fourth quarter of 1994.

Full statutory accounts, which have not yet been reported on by the auditors, will be circulated to shareholders on 20 March 1996 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 16 April 1996. Copies can be obtained after 20 March 1996 from the Shareholder Relations Service at the address below.

Commercial Union plc, St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ

Tel: 0171 283 7500 Internet: http://www.commercial-union.co.uk/cu/12mthrst.htm

COMMERCIAL UNION

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the London Stock Exchange Limited ("The London Stock Exchange"). It does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any securities in Torex Hire PLC ("the Company").

Application has been made to The London Stock Exchange for the existing ordinary shares of 10p each and the new ordinary shares of 10p each of Torex Hire PLC to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that admission to the Official List will become effective and that dealings will commence in the existing ordinary shares and the new ordinary shares in the Company on 20 March 1996.

TOREX HIRE PLC

(to be renamed Torex Group PLC)

(Incorporated and Registered in England No. 1007428)

Proposed Acquisition of Smart Terminals Limited

Share Capital After The Acquisition

Authorised Number	Authorised Amount		Issued and fully paid Up to Number	Issued and fully paid Up to Amount
31,000,000	£3,100,000	ordinary shares of 10p each	23,641,493	£2,364,149.70

Copies of the Listing Particulars, which were published on 21 February 1996, are available for collection during normal business for a period of two business days from 22 February 1996 from Company Announcements, The London Stock Exchange, London Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court Entrance, Off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP, and on any weekday up to and including 7 March 1996 from:

Torex Hire PLC
1 Cannon Road
Heathfield
Newton Abbot
Devon TQ12 6SH

Bell Lawrie White & Co (a division of Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie Limited) (Sponsor) 48 St. Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5TS

Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie Limited 5 Giltspur Street London EC1A 1BD

22 February 1996

Lloyds TSB ready to buy again 'if fit and price is right'

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

ONLY two months after its £16.8 billion merger, Lloyds TSB is back on the acquisition trail, running its slide rule over large building societies, life insurance companies and fund managers.

Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds TSB, refused yesterday to be drawn on which of the three would be most attractive. Any acquisition "depends entirely on the fit and the price", he said.

Lloyds TSB had not been expected to consider another significant acquisition for at least 12 months. However, Sir Brian said that its £1.8 billion takeover of Cheltenham & Gloucester last August and the TSB merger made it a strongly cash-generative business, that could fund another acquisition if the fit was right.

Sir Brian went on: "If you are in an industry which is consolidating then there is no doubt in my mind that there will be further acquisitions in the financial services industry in 1996. We have been participating in this consolidation and will continue to participate."

The acquisition of a life mutual, to complement Lloyds Abbey Life and TSB Life businesses, made sense. But there was a lot of interest in life companies, and "if you are not careful some very fancy prices are paid. We are not in the business of paying a price that would not reward our shareholders," he added.

Lloyds TSB would also consider the acquisition that would enable it to expand its mortgage business. However, its net new lending last year was £2.1 billion, which meant any acquisition would have to be "sizeable", Sir Brian said.

The bank would also look at a fund management acquisition at the right price. After the TSB merger, the combined Lloyds and Hill Samuel fund management businesses had £28 billion under management in the UK, he said.

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Greenspan gives shares a push with rates forecast

AN OPENING surge on Wall Street in both equities and US Treasury bonds helped London to shake off its earlier blues and end the day on a positive note. The FT-SE 100 index staged a 37-point turnaround to close 11 points higher at 3,725.6 as a total of 710 million shares changed hands.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, came to the rescue of financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic with some soothing words about the US economy that raised hopes of an early cut in prime rates. He said that if further progress was made in the direction of a balanced budget, it would lead to a significant drop in long-term interest rates.

His views revived hopes in London that there is still scope for the Bank of England to make another early cut in base rates.

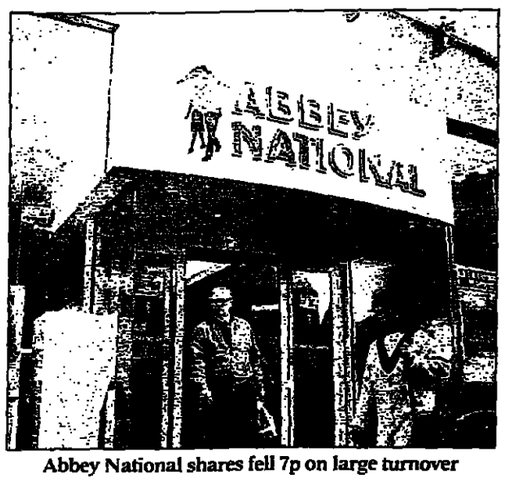
On the takeover front, **Lloyds Chemists** firmed 2p to 491p as the battle for control intensified, with GEHE raising the terms of its original offer and UniChem snapping up 8.6 per cent of the company in a dawn raid on the shares. It followed the move by GEHE, the German pharmaceutical distributor, to increase the terms of its offer by 50p to 500p a share. The new terms value Lloyds Chemists at almost £650 million.

UniChem responded by sending brokers BZW and UBS into the market-place to snap up stock at 497p a share, raising its stake in the company to almost 10 per cent.

UniChem said its acquisition of Lloyds would enhance earnings. By the close of business more than 30 million Lloyds shares had changed hands. **UniChem** finished 7p better at 249p.

The speculators were out in force at **House of Fraser** (HoF), the Army & Navy and Dickins & Jones stores group, as the price climbed 11p to 188p on turnover of two million shares. The shares hit a low of 163p last month after the group issued a profits warning. Despite the recent rally, the HoF share price has failed to live up to expectations and may prove vulnerable to a bid approach.

Brokers say **Sears**, unchanged at 95½p, would have the financial muscle to make such a move, but the Selfriges stores group has problems of its own which it may wish to sort out first.



Abbey National shares fell 7p on large turnover

A profits warning sent shares of **Wagon Industrial** tumbling 32p to 389p. The engineer said that underlying pre-tax profits for the year to March 1996 were likely to fall short of market expectations, currently pitched at about £28.3 million. It blamed lack of demand and problems with integrating acquisitions. Deoverseas operations accounted for 61 per cent of overall operating results.

CU's performance focused attention on the rest of the insurance sector ahead of what is now expected to be an encouraging dividend season. Top of fund managers' lists was **Royal Insurance**, up 12p at 386p ahead of figures out soon. **Guardian Royal Exchange** also firmed 1p to 246p, while among the life companies, **London & Manchester** rose 12p to 392p, **Legal & General** 8p to 726p, and **Britannic** 1p to 743p.

The banks responded positively to comments from UBS, the broker, which takes the view that interest rates are heading down to about the 5 per cent level. **National Westminster Bank**, reflecting Tuesday's profits news and this week's £460 million acquisition of Gartmore, stood out with a rise of 17p to 701p. **Royal Bank of Scotland**, the takeover favourite, added 7p to 584p, and **Standard Chartered** 4p to 603p.

VideoLogic, the multimedia specialist, firmed 1p to 78p after it was signalled that the shares had become a "chart breakout" and a buy.

MAI grew 5p to 436p after the rumoured bid from Michael Green's Carlton Communications failed to materialise. But the City is convinced that Carlton is poised to make a move soon, although its target may not necessarily be MAI. Others in the frame include **United News & Media**, publisher of the *Daily Express*, which is ready to merge itself with MAI, 1p lighter at 641p, **Mirror Group**, unchanged at 221p, and **Scottish Television**, steady at 709p. **Carlton** ended the day down 8p at £10.06.

Intercare, the healthcare group, firmed another 2p to 64p, drawing encouragement from news of this week's boardroom reshuffle. Shareholders at Tuesday's annual meeting were told that Ken Harvey had been appointed non-executive chairman and Jeremy Earnshaw group finance director.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A weaker than expected set of January retail sales and the encouraging outlook for US interest rates saw prices in London shake off an early fall to close substantially higher on the day. The long end of the market recorded gains of more than £1.

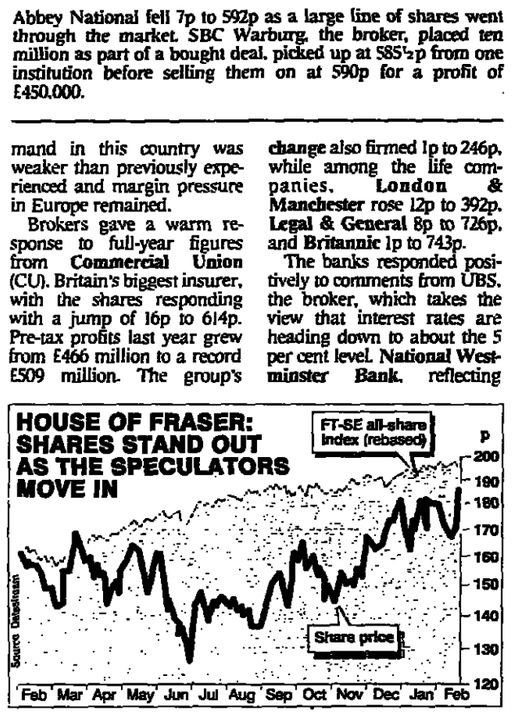
Traders are now pinning their hopes on an early cut in US interest rates. They take the view that there is scope for a softening of rates over here.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt made up early lost ground to finish £11/16 up on the day at £107 31/32 in another day of heavy turnover that saw 92,000 contracts completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 climbed £1 9/32 to £99 17/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £3/8 better at £103 19/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street rebounded in response to the second day of congressional testimony by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 55.63 points higher at 5,514.16.

Abbey National fell 7p to 592p as a large line of shares went through the market. SBC Warburg, the broker, placed ten million as part of a bought deal, picked up at 585½p from one institution before selling them on at 590p for a profit of £450,000.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5514.16 (+55.63)
S&P Composite 646.05 (+6.00)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20372.23 (-283.44)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng Closed

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 503.94 (+4.27)

Sydney:
AO 2238.2 (-7.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2391.12 (+8.51)

Singapore:
Straits Closed

Brussels:
General 8470.55 (+18.54)

Paris:
CAC-40 1936.90 (+4.54)

Zurich:
SWA Gen 724.20 (+1.30)

London:

FT 30	2741.0 (+20.5)
FT 100	3725.6 (+11.0)
FT-SE Mid 250	4182.0 (+4.1)
FT-SE A 350	1860.2 (+4.7)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1521.59 (+0.65)
FT A All-Share	1836.15 (+4.03)
FT Non Financials	1936.04 (+5.85)
FT Fixed Interest	112.27 (Same)
FT Govt Secs	93.63 (+1.36)
Bargains	30449
SEAQ Volume	710.3m
USM (Datastrm)	203.18 (-0.65)
US$	1.5448 (+0.0003)
German Mark	2.2418 (-0.0039)
Exchange Index	83.7 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1883
£:SDR	1.0494
RPI 150.2 Jan (2.9%)	Jan 1987=100
RPIX 149.3 Jan (2.8%)	Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brmd) A	283	...	
Ballynatray	5½	–	½
Clubhaus (75)	7¼	...	
Clubhaus Wts	3½	...	
Dmatek	70	...	
Ex-Lands Props (75)	13½	...	
Ex-Lands Wts	8½	...	
MediaKey (60)	63	+	1
Nthrn Prtnr Wts	8	...	
Optical Care (B)	68	+	2
Ormonde Mining	12	...	
Revelation Plcc	105	...	
Self Sealing Syss (54)	51	...	
Shire Pharms (175)	209	–	2
SkyePharma B Wts	8¼	–	½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ashtead n/p (152)	16	–	1
Br Borneo n/p (310)	119	+	2
Farnl Fn Ut n/p (540)	72	–	3
Innovative T n/p (70)	26	...	
Lookers n/p (125)	½	–	½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Eve Group	143p (+10p)
Flare	161p (+11p)
House of Fraser	188p (+11p)
Arjo Wiggins	207p (+10p)
Royal	386p (+12p)
London & Man	392p (+12p)
Unitech	537p (+16p)
Regent Inns	840p (+23p)
Commercial Union	614p (+16p)
Courtaulds	429p (+11p)
BAT	573p (+13p)
P&O	535p (+10½p)
Nat West	701p (+17p)

FALLS:

Wagon Ind	389p (-32p)
Stoves	280p (-20p)
Forward Group	705p (-15p)
My Kinda Town	125p (-9p)
Frost Group	133p (-9p)
Medeva	226p (-11p)
Aus New Zealand	299p (-11p)
Volex	383p (-12p)
Allied Insh	344p (-10p)
Powell Duffryn	434p (-12p)
Nat Aust Bank	591p (-16p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Chemists mix love potions

IN THE February of a leap year, Lloyds Chemists' shareholders have the pleasant dilemma of choosing between two rival suitors.

On the face of it there is not much to distinguish between the two. Gehe, the ambitious and wealthy German, has made an increased — but not final — offer of £650 million, marginally ahead of a rival offer from UniChem. Ironically, it was yesterday's increased offer from Gehe which helped lift the value of UniChem's bid, raising the price of its shares. Gehe's allure is that its offer is all cash, compared to Unichem's cash and share mix. Shareholders dithering over accepting Gehe's cash need to decide whether an enlarged UniChem will offer better growth.

Both bidders agree there would be considerable cost savings in a marriage of UniChem and Lloyds Chemists, but Gehe has cast doubt on UniChem's claim that most of the gains — reckoned to be £25 million — would come in the first year. The German company reckons that full integration will take several years, a prospect that would dampen investor enthusiasm for the deal. Fear of dilution has depressed the UniChem share price and, notwithstanding the commercial and strategic logic of the deal, there is a question mark over the stock's future performance.

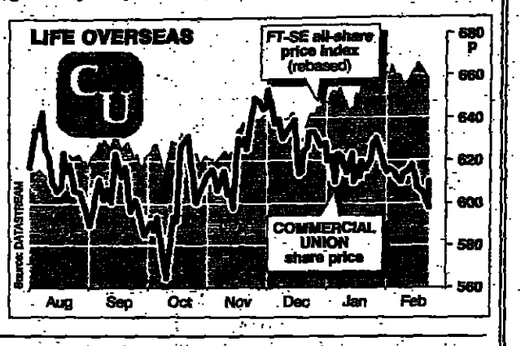
There is a worry that UniChem will lose a commercial advantage to Gehe if the latter wins Lloyds, but the German has been slow to achieve much progress with its last UK acquisition. In the circumstances, the Gehe cash looks more appealing; alternatively investors can sell in the market and buy a resurgent UniChem.

CU

GOOD profits from life insurance and from overseas managed to cheer investors in Commercial Union who are worried about the gloom that is afflicting composite insurers. The UK general insurance market is well off its peak, but overseas markets have become as important to the company. However, the results still failed to answer fundamental questions about strategy and, in particular, Victoire, Commercial Union's expensive French acquistion. The French market is still difficult, and although CU said yesterday that premium rates were still moving upwards, others in the French market see premiums peaking. If that is the case, it could be a disappointing outlook for CU, with the French operation apparently still experiencing weak underwriting margins.

Meanwhile, CU has demonstrated that it has played the insurance cycle well in the UK, with only a slight reduction in profit in spite of increased competition and a rise in claims from burst pipes. CU increased its motor-related business aggressively early in the cycle and over the past year has been trimming its exposure as rates have weakened.

CU is best seen as a portfolio of insurance businesses in different markets, but investors might have preferred a more focused strategy that avoided the huge goodwill write-off from Victoire, which has still to prove its worth.



Elf Aquitaine

IT IS the fashion for oil companies to display their financial targets and yesterday Elf said it expected to achieve a 10 per cent return on equity by 1998. Having produced satisfactory results, Elf may feel it can encourage investors with challenging targets. Unfortunately, non-French investors are less interested in the target figure than in precisely how Elf intends to achieve it.

Yesterday, Philippe Jaffré, the chairman, made impressive noises about huge upstream investments over the next five years. But Elf is making slow progress in the critical area of reserve replacement, only just managing 100 per cent of its production last year. That compares with industry averages nearer 120 per cent and does not reflect well of a company with such a heavy upstream bias.

Elf's target rate of return is well above last year's 7 per cent, but with the cost of capital in the oil industry of about 12 per cent, it is not an impressive target, even less so when other major oil companies are achieving 15 per cent. With the chemicals cycle past its peak, Elf needs success upstream to improve its share price and past performance gives little confidence.

My Kinda Town

WITH new restaurants opening on every corner, results from My Kinda Town were a useful reminder that the trade is vulnerable to shocks. The company's French business was decimated by French strikes and terrorist attacks, leaving profits unchanged despite growth in the UK and Germany.

The return of terrorist bombs in London must be a concern to the company, although restaurateurs claim that because a smaller proportion of their trade is tourist-related, they are less exposed than hoteliers. The argument suggests that after a brief interval, suburbanites will not be deterred from their night on the town.

For investors, the greater concern is the huge increase in restaurant capacity, recently accelerated by the fashion for the 200-plus seater venues. My Kinda Town's contract to run the Capital Radio restaurant at Leicester Square pits the firm against nearby Planet Hollywood and the planned Fashion Cafe, while in Covent Garden bids are being made for a restaurant site with a capacity for over 600 covers.

With huge fitting-out costs, investors need to be confident that the theme will last more than five years and My Kinda Town is sensibly not putting capital into the radio restaurant. In the end, the landlords may be the big winners in the restaurant craze.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	893-892	May	1012-1010
May	916-915	Jul	unq
Jul	940-939	Sep	...
Sep	963-961	Dec	...
Dec	978-977		
Mar	998-997	Volume: 4417	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2125-2120	Nov	1840-1839
May	1995-1980	Jan	1825-1822
Jul	1910-1908	Mar	1820-1800
Sep	1905-1894	Volume: 5784	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Recent		Dec	314.4-11.0
Spot 409.0		Mar	310.4-09.0
May	302.0-00.3	May	306.9-02.5
Aug	358.7-57.0	Aug	unq
Oct	325.1-22.5	Volume: 922	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average laststock prices at representative markets on February 20

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	105.12	129.69	119.50
+/-	+6.65	-3.56	+0.34
England/Wales	105.15	129.97	117.93
+/-	+7.40	-3.75	+0.06
Scotland	104.92	128.59	124.05
+/-	+0.76	-2.66	-0.02
NI	+7.0	-12.0	-4.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.05	-0.40
Brent IS day (Apr)	17.85	+0.30
Brent IS day (May)	17.30	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	19.30	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (May)	18.70	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	B. 174 (+2)	O. 176 (+2)	
Gasoil EEC	192 (+4)	196 (+5)	
Non EEC 1H Mar	182 (+4)	185 (+4)	
Non EEC 1H Apr	177 (+4)	179 (+4)	
3.5 Fuel Oil	92 (+1)	94 (+1)	
Naphtha	174 (+1)	175 (nil)	

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL

Mar	173.50-73.75	Jun	152.75-53.00
Apr	160.00-60.25	Jul	152.00 BID
May	155.50-55.75	Vol. 11756	

BRENT ($.00pm)

Apr	17.94-17.85	Jul	16.64 SLR
May	17.21-17.23	Aug	16.47-16.50
Jun	16.88 SLR	Vol. 25845	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	118.05	Mar	109.60
May	120.75	May	110.50
Jul	122.80	Sep	105.80
Sep	110.70	Nov	107.50
Nov	112.35	Jan	107.50
Volume: 468		Volume: 60	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	176.0	175.5
May	196.0	195.0
Volume: 30		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Clf p/k)
Mar 108.50-109.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $/£/p)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 96	1428	1410	1415
Mar 96	1475	1430	1440
Apr 96	1470	1425	1430
Jul 96	1335	1310	1310
Vol. 125 lots	Open Interest: 4683		
	Index 1410-7		

(Official) (% change prev day) — **LONDON METAL EXCHANGE** — **Rudolf Wolff**

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2499.0-2500.0	2472.0-2473.0	1697700
Lead ($/tonne)	783.00-783.50	777.00-778.00	182650
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1028.5-1029.0	1047.0-1047.5	720875
Tin ($/tonne)	6215.0-6220.0	6275.0-6280.0	24295
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1589.0-1590.0	1619.5-1619.0	2245675
Nickel ($/tonne)	8210.0-8215.0	$315.0-4316.0	84954

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 96	3694.0	3726.0	3694.0	3721.0	12184
Previous open interest: 64211	Jun 96	3700.0	3716.5	3700.0	3725.5	2013
FT-SE 250	Mar 96				4190.0	0
Previous open interest: 3511	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 96	93.77	93.80	93.77	93.88	16873
Previous open interest: 395098	Jun 96	93.77	93.97	93.76	93.94	54145
	Sep 96	93.64	93.85	93.60	93.91	36291
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96				94.73	0
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 96	96.53	96.59	96.52	96.56	35834
Previous open interest: 1045.66	Jun 96	96.54	96.60	96.52	96.59	58876
Long Gilt	Mar 96	109-23	109-00	109-23	107-31	84442
Previous open interest: 139679	Jun 96	109-00	107-07	109-00	107-07	458
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	118 77	118.93	118.67	118.80	2935
	Jun 96	117.26	117.43	117.18	117.31	5870
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 96	96.18	97.45	96.15	97.39	318831
Previous open interest: 279501	Jun 96	95.45	96.56	95.44	96.58	28205
Three month ECU	Mar 96	95.12	95.24	95.12	95.19	1891
Previous open interest: 24717	Jun 96	95 24	95.33	95.24	95.28	1284
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 96	98.10	98.16	98.09	98.15	3982
Previous open interest: 67241	Jun 96	97.95	98.05	97.90	98.00	5800
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96	107.10	109.10	107.10	108.97	73822
Previous open interest: 42686	Jun 96	107.04	108.41	107.04	108.60	1895

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6% Finance Hse 6%
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6% Week fixed: 6%
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth: 5⅞ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	
Sterling Money Rates:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛
Interbank:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛

Overnight open 6¼, close 7¼ .

Local Authority Deps:	6%	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.18	n/a	5.15	5.11	5.10
Building Society CDs:	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛	6¼-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¼-4¾	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅛-3	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅜	3⅛-3⅜	4-3
French Franc:	4¼-4	4¼-4⅛	4¼-4⅛	4¼-4⅛	4½-3½
Swiss Franc:	1¾-1½	1¾-1½	1¾-1½	1¾-1½	2-1
Yen:	¼-⅛	¼-⅛	¼-⅛	¼-⅛	½-0

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $397.80-399.25 Close: $396.90-397.40 High: $399.50-400.00
Low: $394.40-396.90 AM: $398.50 PM: $396.60

Krugerrand: $397.25-399.25 (£256.00-258.00)

Platinum: $415.40-420.20 Silver: $5.53-5.5795 Palladium: $140.00-(£90.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 21:	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5046-2.5149	2.5085-2.5117	½-¼pr	2-1½pr
Brussels	49.38-49.22	49.08-49.18	13-10pr	33-28pr
Copenhagen	8.6530-8.6880	8.6570-8.6790	1½-1pr	3½-2½pr
Dublin	0.9720-0.9729	0.9700-0.9726	12-8pr	26-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2590-2.2650	2.2390-2.2430	¼-⅜pr	1½-1¾pr
Lisbon	230.35-234.31	233.42-234.06	20-47dis	77-125dis
Madrid	188.63-189.25	188.63-188.92	41-51dis	117-134dis
Milan	2427.50-2431.80	2427.50-2431.80	7-9dis	23-36dis
Montreal	2.1264-2.1350	2.1264-2.1294	0.20-0.11pr	0.35-0.24pr
New York	1.5418-1.5428	1.5416-1.5428	0.14-0.12pr	0.35-0.33pr
Oslo	9.7900-9.8140	9.7970-9.8120	1½-1¾pr	3½-3¾pr
Paris	7.7150-7.7320	7.7220-7.7260	1½-1¾pr	3½-3¾pr
Stockholm	10.4200-10.5360	10.4200-10.4440	½-¾dis	½-¾dis
Tokyo	162.19-162.96	162.19-162.46	¼-¼pr	2-1¾pr
Vienna	15.72-15.79	15.76-15.78	¼-¼pr	1½-1¼pr
Zurich	1.8230-1.8312	1.8292-1.8310	¼-¼pr	2-1¾pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr. Discount = dis.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3315-1.3324
Austria	10.21-10.22
Belgium (Com)	29.87-29.91
Canada	1.3806-1.3811
Denmark	5.6165-5.6195
France	5.0095-5.0075
Germany	1.4522-1.4532
Hong Kong	7.7332-7.7342
Ireland	1.5880-1.5900
Italy	1573.00-1573.50
Japan	105.30-105.40
Malaysia	2.5505-2.5525
Netherlands	1.6260-1.6270
Norway	6.3558-6.3578
Portugal	151.45-151.55
Singapore	1.4020-1.4030
Spain	122.38-122.46
Sweden	6.7740-6.7840
Switzerland	1.1848-1.1858

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5439-1.5465
Australia dollar	2.0551-2.0578
Bahrain dinar	0.5770-0.5990
Brazil real	1.5099-1.5141
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7050-0.7150
Finland markka	7.9420-7.9520
Greece drachma	368.00-375.00
Hong Kong dollar	11.9374-11.9428
India rupee	56.12-57.08
Indonesia rupiah	3528.00-3596.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4575-0.4675
Malaysia ringgit	3.9372-3.9416
New Zealand dollar	2.2833-2.2863
Pakistan rupee	52.94 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7375-5.8035
Singapore dollar	2.1647-2.1676
S Africa rand (com)	6.0760-6.1780
U A E dirham	5.6200-5.7440

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	893	Land Sees	1,300
ASDA Gp	8,600	Legal & Gen	2,600
Abbey Nti	24,000	Lloyds TSB	10,000
Allied Dom	2,300	Marks Spr	7,600
Argos	200	NatWst Bk	13,000
Argyll Gp	1,200	Nat Grid	5,600
AB Foods	1,200	Nat Power	2,700
BAA	3,600	P & O	2,600
BAT Inds	5,300	Pearson	2,000
BOC	617	Pilkington	3,000
BP	4,000	PowerGen	926
Bskyb	2,200	Prudential	4,200
BTR	7,700	RENAIA	1,100
Bass	1,000	RMC	403
BA	4,000	Reuters	2,000
Brit Gas	4,700	Rolls Royce	5,000
Brit Steel	11,000	Royal Ins	3,400
Burmah Cstl	114	Ryl Bk Scot	3,900
Burton	1,500	Sainsbury	4,000
Cable Wire	3,900	Schroders	30
Cadbury	4,900	Scot & New	1,600
Carlton Cms	1,700	ScotPower	2,200
Cm Union	2,500	Sun Trust	876
Cookson	2,100	Shell Trans	4,400
Courtaulds	2,700	Siebe	1,500
Dixons	3,700	Smkl Bch	7,600
Enterpr Oil	899	Smith Nph	1,100
For & Col IT	416	Smiths Inds	227
GKN	296	Sthern Elec	646
GRE	2,800	Std Charrd	1,200
GUS	1,900	Sun Alliance	3,100
Gen Acc	1,400	TI Gp	1,000
Gen Elec	4,200	Tate & Lyle	2,000
Glaxo Well	2,900	Tesco	3,500
Granada	3,700	Thames W	771
Grand Met	2,100	Thrn EMI	1,400
Greenalls	207	Tomkins	2,100
Guinness	3,300	Unilever	5,100
HSBC	2,100	United Utils	1,100
Hanson	9,400	Vodafone	9,400
ICI	1,600	Whitbread	1,000
Kingfisher	662	Wllms Hld	966
LASMO	2,000	Wolseley	1,000
Ladbroke	11,000	Zeneca	3,600

	Feb 21 midday	Feb 20 close
AMP Inc	42¾	42¾
ASA Corp	83½	81¾
AT & T	66½	65½
Abbott Labs	42¾	43¾
Advanced Micro	20	19¾
Aetna Life	71¾	71¾
Ahmanson (H F)	22¾	22¾
Air Prod & Chem	53¾	53¾
AirTouch Comms	31¾	31¾
Albertn-Culver B	28¾	28¾
Albertson's	36¾	36¾
Alcan Aluminm	30¾	30¾
Alco Standard	46¾	46¾
Allied Signal	54	53¾
Allstn Cp of Am	34½	34½
Amax Gold Inc	6¾	7
Amerada Hess	53¾	52¾
Amer Brands	46¾	46¾
Amer El Power	43¾	43¾
Amer Express	46¾	45¾
Amer Gen Corp	38¾	36¾
Amer Home Pr	100¾	99¾
Amer Intl	97¾	97¾
Amer Stores	29¾	28¾
Amer Standard	29¾	29¾
Ameritech	59¾	58¾
Amoco	78¾	80¾
Anheuser-Busch	68¾	67¾
Apple Computer	28¾	28
Archer Daniels	19	19
Armco	5¾	5¾
Armstrong Wrld	65¾	65¾
Asarco	39¾	39¾
Ashland Oil	38¾	38¾
Atl Richfield	115	114¾
Aztec Data Pro	41¾	40¾
Avery Dennison	34¾	34¾
Avon Products	82¾	82¾
Baker Hughes	30¾	30¾
Baltim. Gas & El.	28¾	28¾
Banc One	35¾	34¾
BankAmerica	69¾	68¾
Bank of NY	51¾	51¾
Bankers Tr NY	63¾	63
Bausch & Lomb	40	39¾
Baxter Intl	42¾	41¾
Becton Dickinson	85¾	84¾
Bell Atlantic	65¾	65
Bell Industries	6¾	6¾
BellSouth	39¾	38¾
Black & Decker	33¾	32¾
Block (HAR)	41¾	41¾
Boeing	82¾	80¾
Boise Cascade	37	37
Bristol Myer Sq	86¾	85¾
Browning Ferris	39¾	39¾
Brunswick	24¾	23¾
Burlington Nthrn	69¾	68¾
CBI Indis	32¾	32¾
CNA Financial	117¾	116¾
CPC Intl	71¾	71¾
CSX	47¾	46¾
Campbell Soup	66¾	66¾
Can Pacific	19¾	19¾
Carolina Pwr	37¾	37¾
Caterpillar	69¾	69¾
Central & SW	26¾	26¾
Champion Intl	45	42
Chase Manhat	57¾	56¾
Chemical Bk	66¾	66¾
Chevron Corp	56¾	56¾
Chrysler	53¾	53¾
Chubb Corp	98¾	96¾
Cigna Corp	118¾	117¾
Cincinnl Mlcy	27¾	27¾
Citicorp	94¾	94¾
Clorox	86¾	85¾
Coastal Corp	38¾	38¾
Coca Cola	81¾	80¾
Colgate-Palmolive	78¾	78¾
Columbia Gas	44¾	44¾
ColumbiaHCA	39¾	39¾
Compaq Comp	58¾	58¾
Comp Ass Intl	71¾	71¾
Conagra	43¾	43¾
Conrail	74¾	73¾
Cons Edison	33¾	33¾
Cons Nat Gas	44¾	44¾
Cooper Inds	38¾	38¾
Coretalrs	42¾	42¾
Corning Inc	36¾	36¾
Crown Cork	47¾	46¾
Dana Corp	31¾	31¾
Data Gen Horizon	73¾	72¾
Deere	38¾	38¾
Delta Air Lines	75¾	75¾
Delmarva Corp	32¾	32¾
Digital Equip	69¾	68¾
Dillard Dept St	31	30¾
Disney (Walt)	63¾	63¾
Dominion Res	46¾	46¾
Donnelley (RR)	39¾	39¾
Dover Corp	47¾	47¾
Dow Chemical	78¾	77¾
Dow Jones	39¾	39
Dresser	21¾	20¾
Duke Power	41¾	39
Dun & Bradstreet	63¾	62¾
Du Pont	79¾	78
Eastman Chem	67¾	67¾

	Feb 21 midday	Feb 20 close
Eastman Kodak	74	73¾
Eaton Corp	56¾	56¾
Edison Intl	17¾	17¾
Emerson Elec	81¾	81¾
Engelhard Corp	23¾	23¾
Enron Corp	39¾	39¾
Entergy	29¾	29
Exxon Corp	90¾	90¾
FMC Corp	73¾	73¾
FPL Group	46¾	46¾
Federal Express	75¾	73¾
Fed Nat Mtge	33¾	32¾
First Interstate	103¾	104¼
First Union Wby	7¾	7¾
First Fini Grp	39¾	39¾
Fluor Corp	63¾	62¾
Ford Motor	30¾	30

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Guinness-free day for Lyell

BUT for the little matter of the Scott report, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, might have been in Strasbourg on Monday. Instead, he was in the Commons facing his monthly 15-minute question session from fellow MPs, not a few of whom felt that he should resign forthwith.

As the most senior law officer in the land, Sir Nicholas was to have represented the Government in the hearing before the European Court of Human Rights in which Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chairman, was pleading that he had been denied a fair trial.

With the Scott report timetable in mind, the Government undoubtedly thought it wise that Sir Nicholas should be on hand and in London on Monday.

Or, to put it another way, it would have been unthinkable that the Attorney-General was thought to have left the country so soon after the Scott report had been published.

Cedric Part II

TODAY, British Gas's outgoing chief executive Cedric Brown intends bowing out of his last results presentation with more aplomb than was afforded him at the recent press conference for the company's demerger.

To British Gas's embarrassment on that occasion, his early retirement received more publicity than the group's carefully laid demerger plans.

This time round, Richard Giordano, British Gas chairman, is insisting that there is a separate meeting in another room after the announcement of the figures in which he and Brown can answer questions in an orderly fashion. Cedric Part II will be fighting free, hopefully.



"How come the cold weather didn't hit the Lottery sales"

Missing 'wake'

MEANWHILE, I learn that Brown is unaccountably unable to attend a glittering party at the Commons next week.

He has been asked to a "wake". Not his, I hasten to add, but that of the Commons Employment Select Committee, which is to disappear following the merging of the employment and education departments.

A motley crew of other Hon Members, employment specialists and "witnesses who have appeared before the committee more than once", have been invited, according to its chairman, Greville Janner.

As Brown was grilled twice last year over his 75 per cent pay rise, which sparked off the row over fat-cat pay and led to the setting up of the Greenbury committee. He was an obvious guest to invite. Sadly, he is busy that night.

Mega Megastore

THE irrepressible Richard Branson has chosen April 23 as the opening date for the world's biggest music shop, a Virgin Megastore in Times Square in Manhattan. With 75,000 feet of retail space on three floors, the store will have more than a million CDs, 150,000 music titles, a vast laser disc and video section, multimedia stations, a concert piano and a stage.

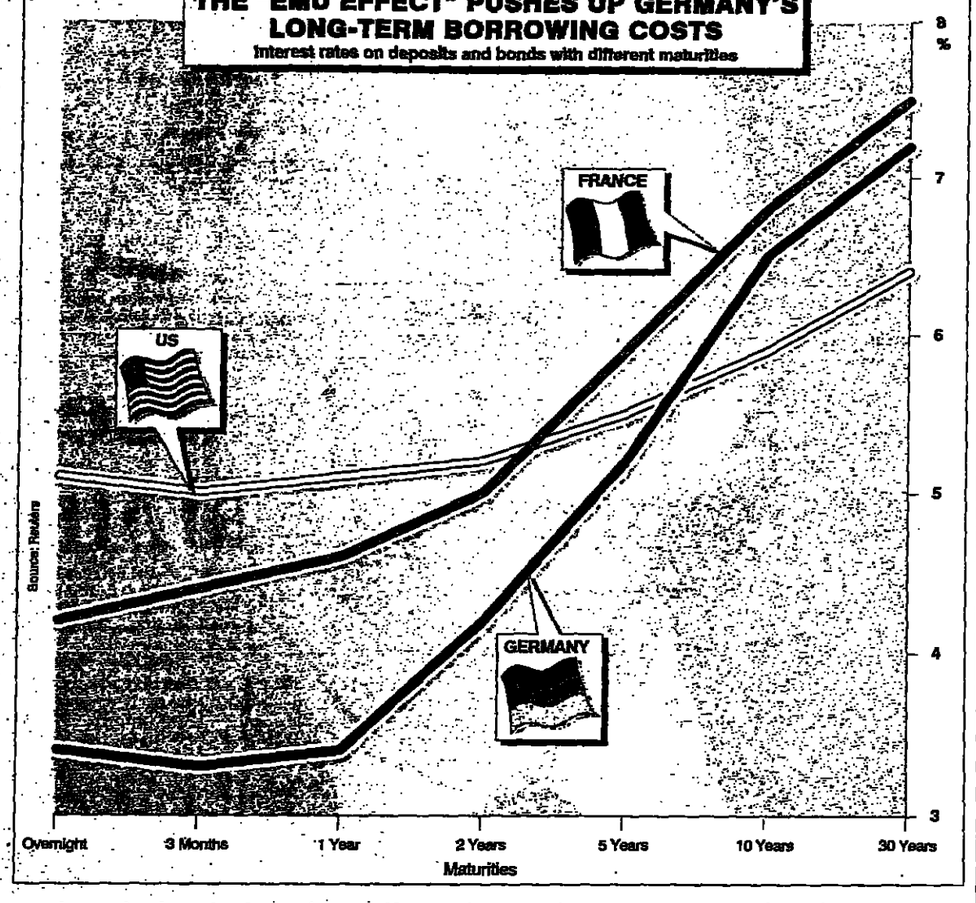
COLIN CAMPBELL.



ANATOLE KALETSKY

German savers have lost faith in 'Camembert' mark

The EMU effect is the forerunner of political and economic tensions that await Europe



About a year ago I attended a small lunch in the City with a recently retired member of the Bundesbank Council. The guest, a lifelong Bundesbank official, had always opposed the idea of European Monetary Union but had been unable to voice his opinions in public until his retirement. He now predicted — with an outspokenness and clarity that British Eurosceptics would envy — that the German political elite's obsession with monetary union would lead to disaster. Impressed as I was by his account, I felt that he had left the most important question unanswered.

It was all very well to argue that EMU would be a monumental blunder but history showed that political leaders were all too frequently capable of making catastrophic mistakes. And no nation in history had been more guilty of making horrible misjudgments than Germany. As analysts, we had to distinguish between what we thought ought to happen and what actually would happen. Regardless of what he considered right, did our German guest expect EMU to happen?

The Bundesbanker's reply gave a premonition of the great politico-economic tensions that I think will dominate the European economy and the world financial markets in the coming months.

"I can only answer your question with a brief story. Since I retired from the Bundesbank some of my relatives have asked me what they should do with their savings as the date for monetary union approaches. I have always given the same answer: if you want to keep your savings in a hard currency, sell your German government bonds and put the money in Swiss francs."

After a pause to let this apostasy sink in, the Bundesbanker moved to his second punch-line: "More and more Germans are starting to think in this way. In the end the German government may find it can no longer sell its bonds on the market to German savers. That is the one pressure which could make politicians think again and stop monetary union."

These words started to ring true last summer when German retail deposits flooded out of the mark into the Swiss franc.

Both the Kohl Government and the Buba were clearly rattled by this flight into Switzerland and immediately responded with aggressive rhetoric, insisting that EMU would happen on the toughest of German terms or not at all. It was no coincidence that this was the moment chosen by Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, suddenly to demand a draconian new "stability pact", going far beyond the terms of the Maastricht treaty, in exchange for giving up the mark.

By the end of last year, however, the pressures in Germany seemed to dissipate and Herr Kohl felt free to give EMU a new lease of life. At the Madrid summit, the Waigel stability pact was allowed to vanish into the bowels of the Brussels bureaucracy. The Bundesbank started to cut its interest rates far more aggressively than it had dared to do earlier in 1995 during the Swiss capital flight.

Under these circumstances it has not taken long for German savers to start worrying again about the threat of EMU. As a result of EMU fears Germany's ten-year interest rates have soared from 5.7 per cent to 6.4 per cent in the past month. But why blame this on EMU?

Firstly, because the Bundesbank itself now does. By all accounts, Buba officials right up to Hans Tietmeyer, the president, now speak openly among themselves and with their G7 colleagues about "the EMU effect". The painful consequences of this effect are illustrated in the chart. The Bundesbank has pushed its short-term interest rates far below American levels, yet longer-term bond yields, over which the central bank has no direct control, have stubbornly refused to move down. As a result, German companies are paying far more than American ones for their long-term borrowing. In an economy where investment and even consumer credit are financed largely through long-term borrowing in the bond market, the Bundesbank's inability to reduce the long-term rate of interest poses a much bigger threat than it would in Britain or even America.

This leads to the second reason for confidently blaming the rout in German bonds on EMU. Apart from the threat of EMU, everything else in the German economic background has been pointing to lower, rather than higher, long-term interest rates — especially in comparison with US rates. The recent worldwide bond rout was not very surprising — a setback in America and Japan was predictable and widely predicted. The real surprise has been that the German bond market has suffered more than any other (in bond market parlance, the spread between German and American bond yields has widened abruptly, instead of narrowing, as almost any analysis of the economic fundamentals would have predicted).

In America, Japan and even Britain, where bond markets have also fallen, economic conditions are completely unlike Germany's. Business activity is starting to accelerate, investors are nervous about inflation, the prospects for deficit reduction are much less promising than a few months ago and bond yields are already low compared with short-term rates.

In Germany, by contrast, the economy is still weakening, inflation has practically vanished, the budgetary zeal seems as strong as ever and bond yields are exceptionally high in relation to short rates (in the financial parlance "the yield curve is exceptionally steep"). Yet despite all these clear fundamentals, pressures for lower bond rates — to say nothing about struggling German industrialists' evident need for lower borrowing costs — Germany's long-term interest rates have risen much faster than America's and faster even than in Britain or France. And as long as the EMU effect continues to frighten off German bond investors, the Bundesbank may be unable to get long-term interest rates down to the levels needed to revive German industry.

If the Bundesbank's paralysis persists the implications could become alarming

If the Bundesbank's paralysis persists, the implications could become alarming; not only for Germany but for the whole European economy. Germany, along with France and the Benelux countries, could soon be on the brink of a full-scale recession and the Bundesbank would be powerless to help.

Investors' fears of EMU are transforming the mark into a surrogate for the French franc or euro. Neither the euro nor the franc can hope to command the same credibility among long-term investors as the dollar or the pre-EMU mark. This lack of credibility is now infecting the mark.

The mark is turning into a "Camembert currency" — hard on the outside, but steadily softening inside — to use the colourful description of Germany's tabloids. And as I explained in this space on February 1, an examination of market interest rates shows that this process has already progressed much further than most people realise — although far more people realise this now after the drubbing they have suffered in the German bond market. As a result, long-term interest rates in Germany must now be substantially higher than they are in America, even if Germany's weak domestic economy calls for much *lower* long-term rates.

As a result of the EMU effect the Bundesbank now has three options. If it wants to help German industry pull out of recession it can reduce long-term interest rates by eliminating "the EMU effect"; but the only way to do this would be openly to denounce monetary union and persuade investors that the new Camembert mark will be transformed back into a hard mark.

Secondly the Buba could consciously accept that from now on it is managing a French-style Camembert mark: it could cut short-term interest rates aggressively and actively try to devalue the Camembert mark against the dollar, without paying heed to such vestiges of the "hard mark" regime as the German money supply.

The Bundesbank's third option is to try to muddle through, pretending it is still the guardian of a hard D-mark, which investors know to be a soft Camembert C-mark. This choice will mean high long-term interest rates, stagnation for German industry and misery for the European economy.

Business must clean up its own act on late payments

Tony Bonner calls for education not legislation to tackle problem

Late payment has become something of a *cause célèbre*, with politicians competing to champion the small business cause — and occasionally tripping over their shoelaces.

Hardly a day goes by without an article, a new survey, a letter to the newspapers, or a Private Member's Bill in the Commons complaining that small firms in the UK are being suffocated because they are not getting paid on time.

But how big a problem is late payment? Only last week, a survey by the Forum of Private Business was reported as claiming that latepayers "keep small firms waiting 77 days". In fact, the survey showed that the average time taken to pay a bill in the UK, including those who pay on time, was 49 days. The figure of 77 days was an average of the bills that were paid late — ignoring the greater weight of bills that were paid promptly.

The real figure of 49 days is in line with other surveys, including those of the CBI (53 days) and Grant Thornton (50 days), and compares favourably with a European average of 61 days. Even though the latest Grant Thornton figures show a marginal increase in the UK average, they also show that we must keep the problem of late payment in perspective. That is not to say that late payment is not a serious problem for many firms. But the debate must be based on fact, not emotion, if we are to find workable solutions.


Bonner: "culture change"

So who is responsible for late payment — Government, suppliers or customers? Government obviously sets the standard — and generally performs quite well. The DTI claims to pay 93 per cent of its bills within 30 days, and all government departments have now been required to sign up to the CBI's Prompt Payers Code, but there remain pockets of poor performance that must be tackled.

Suppliers must also bear some of the blame. Bad credit management is often a factor in late payment. If invoices are not sent out on time, contain errors, or are inadequately documented, you cannot blame the customer if payment is delayed.

Obviously, a large share of the blame must rest with customers themselves. There are several reasons for delaying payment of bills, such as insolvency, a dispute, administrative failure, or an attempt to optimise cashflow through such deliberate action. So what is to be done? Legislation giving a statutory right to interest on late payment of debts will not solve the problem. In my experience, if a credit manager is under pressure to delay payment of bills, a law will not stop him: he will simply insist on longer payment terms from the start to avoid the risk of having to pay interest. By the same token, a dominant supplier would use the right to interest to secure short payment terms, thus leaving the small business squeezed between its customers and its suppliers.

What is needed is a change in business culture: education, not legislation — an approach that concentrates on raising awareness that it pays to pay promptly.

Larger companies are increasingly recognising that paying on time helps to develop a partnership with suppliers, with important benefits such as prompt delivery, good prices, better quality, and flexibility of response. In addition, there are administrative savings to be made from a seamless payment system between customer and supplier. That is why the CBI launched the Prompt Payers Code and is backing the new British Standard for Payment Performance that seeks to bring together best practice among both suppliers and customers. More can also be done to improve credit management among suppliers and the CBI is urging the Government, and Business Links, to provide credit management health checks for smaller businesses. Of course, if all else fails, business needs recourse to the law. But here it is not new legislation that is required, but better and speedier court procedures to obtain judgment and enforcement.

It is ironic that, with business clamouring for removal of regulation, the business community should be asking the Government to solve a problem that is primarily of its own making. We should be looking to clean up our own act rather than looking to Government to solve the problem for us.

It is vital that we do not lose our heads and end up with legislation that could seriously hurt those of us running small businesses.

The author is chairman of the CBI Small and Medium Enterprise Council and group managing director of Contract Chemicals

Use lottery proceeds for repair of IRA bomb damage

From Captain R. J. Husk

Sir, In 1994 following the IRA bomb in the City of London, the Government decided it would no longer meet the cost of reparations resulting from terrorist damage to businesses.

Since this date, organisations on the UK mainland have been obliged to insure against terrorist action through Pool-Re. In 1995, because there had been no terrorist action in the previous year, the charge for the year due to April 30, 1996 was set at 60 per cent of the Pool-Re premium with 40 per cent suspended. Now that extensive damage has resulted from the Docklands explosion, businesses will have to pay the suspended premium, plus of course the premium due to the forthcoming year. To obviate this might I suggest that money from the National Lottery is used to meet the whole cost of repairs and rebuilding arising from IRA action? Insurance companies would then have no excuse to levy further demands for Pool-Re cover, and businesses which are struggling to recover from the recession would stand a far better chance of survival. Projects due to be financed by the National Lottery could be postponed with nothing like the damage from the cost of Pool-Re premiums. Such a scheme would show the country as a whole pulling together to counter the financial effects of IRA action.

Yours faithfully,
CAPTAIN R. J. HUSK,
Royal Navy,
18 Shorrolds Road, SW6.

Inflation forecasts are unrealistic

From Professor Kenneth F. Wallis

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky's discussion (Economic View, February 15) of the Bank of England's new-style inflation forecast overlooks the assumption that the interest rates will remain unchanged on which the forecast is based. Instead, he treats it like an unconditional forecast, as does the Bank's own presentation — "more likely than not that inflation will be below 2½ per cent in two years' time". But if this is the outcome, does anyone seriously believe interest rates will still be at their present level in two years? Of course not.

So in endorsing Kaletsky's call for more openness in monetary policy making, I suggest a good place to start would be with more realistic and more honest forecasts (the call for transparency also applies to the Chancellor's forecasts). Then, in comparing the Bank's forecasts with other forecasters, who all make unconditional forecasts, we should at least be comparing like with like. The comparison which the Bank presents ignores differences in assumptions, and so is not helpful. May I add three words to Kaletsky's conclusion: "an open and *better-informed debate* on monetary policy would almost certainly have produced better decisions."

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH F. WALLIS,
University of Warwick,
Coventry.

Paperwork generators

From Mr F. Hague

Sir, When public shares were privatised, my wife and I both applied for shares in order to obtain a reasonable allocation.

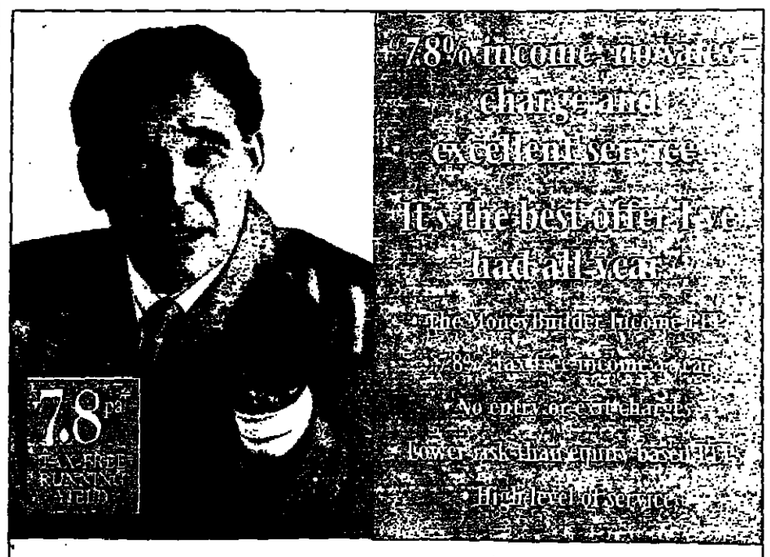
In due course, we applied to have the shares entered in joint names, thus saving additional paperwork in the way of cheques, reports etc.

British Gas sent a simple sheet of paper asking for our joint signatures; by return, we received shares in joint names.

Recently, we applied similarly to National Power and PowerGen. We received six forms, A4 size, asking for six signatures on each three sheets. Unfortunately, to save paper, I put both my wife's details and my own on one set of sheets, the result being a further six sheets to fill in again.

Comments please.

Yours faithfully,
F. HAGUE,
75 Woodland Drive,
Anlaby,
Hull,
North Humberside.



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Callfree 9am-6pm. Open 7 days.
Or contact us on http://www.fid-intl.com/uk

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British industry 'under funded'

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE investment record in Britain is depressingly low compared with our major competitors, the deputy governor of the Bank of England told senior fund managers responsible for £350 billion of pension assets.

Howard Davies, formerly the director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, made his remarks yesterday on the opening day of the National Association of Pension Funds' (NAPF) three-day investment conference in Eastbourne.

Mr Davies told delegates that not only was investment growth in the UK weaker than when we emerged from the recession in the early 1980s, but that Britain lagged behind its main industrial competitors. He said: "Over a lengthy period we have invested a lower proportion of GDP (gross domestic product) than our main industrial competitors."

He continued: "Over the last 30 years the UK average is around 18 per cent versus 22 per cent for France and Germany and around 30 per cent for Japan. Even the US share of investment has been slightly higher than the UK's."

Even though the economy is growing, Mr Davies added, "The bald figures would suggest that investment growth has been considerably weaker in this recovery than it was a decade ago." The worst aspect, he said, was that commercial construction had "not picked up at all".

Geoff Lindey, chairman of the NAPF's Investment Committee, strongly defended the investment record of NAPF members. He said: "The problem is not one of institutional investors failing to invest in British companies.

He said that investment in the UK had tended to come from overseas companies. "Take the motor industry," he said. "We have seen huge investments running into billions of pounds in recent years. But where were the British companies?"

CHRIS HARRIS



Sean O'Connor, chairman of Stoves, left, with John Crathorne, the chief executive, who yesterday unveiled a 13 per cent rise in their pre-tax profits to £1.5 million in the six months to December 2. Sales rose 24 per cent to £27.9 million. The cooker manufacturer is paying a maiden interim dividend of 1.7p out of earnings of 6.1p a share. The shares fell 20p, to 280p, compared with last summer's flotation price of 163p

MPs attack Tecs for 'modest' record on improving training

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government's business-led Training and Enterprise Councils have made only a "modest" contribution to improving training in Britain, an influential Commons committee said yesterday.

The all-party Commons Employment Select Committee called for radical changes to the business-dominated boards that run Tecs in England and Wales. In a critical report, it said their impact on training has been less than was hoped for, and made clear it was "alarmed" at the measurement of Tecs' performance and the way they spend £1.7 billion of public money.

The findings and recommendations of the committee are only the latest criticism to be made of the Tecs, which were set up five years ago to change the way training is run in the UK. The Nolan committee on standards in public life is expected shortly to increase pressure on Tecs by also recommending changes to their governing boards to make them more accountable.

Currently, Tecs — described by the committee as private-sector companies with a public role — have more than 750 business leaders on their governing boards, though the MPs said there were "difficulties in reconciling the need for Government to exercise proper financial controls with the dynamism which Tecs were supposed to bring to the task of local regeneration".

In their report, the MPs concluded that Tecs had made a "modest contribution to the improvement of the system of training for the unemployed, and to the promotion of economic regeneration and enterprise within the local economy", and that "their performance in placing people in work and gaining qualifications appears to reflect economic conditions, and not to overcome them".

Tecs, the committee said, have a wider problem: "As effectively monopoly contractors with the Government, they are comparatively immune to the competitive discipline of the private sector, and in some cases are slow to win the trust and confidence of local communities."

To overcome this, the committee urged the Government to abandon the founding principle that local business leaders who serve on Tecs' governing boards should be at company chairman and chief executive level. It proposed the Secretary of State appoint one business board member who is not a chairman or chief executive to allow the appointment of executives from larger national companies.

The Tecs' national council welcomed the "balanced and thoughtful" report, though Chris Humphries, policy director, said it could not support all the recommendations.

Zeneca plan to merge seeds business

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

ZENECA is in advanced talks to merge Zeneca Seeds with Royal VanderHave of The Netherlands, part of Suiker Unie, the farming co-operative group, to form a large international seeds joint venture.

The merged company, to be called Zeneca VanderHave, will be 50/50 owned by the groups. It will have annual sales of about £300 million and be in the top five seeds groups in the world.

Zeneca's 1,500 employees at its agricultural seeds business in Fernhurst, Surrey, will merge with Royal VanderHave's 1,000 employees to form a new business based at Kapelle in The Netherlands.

An overlap may have an implication for jobs, although Zeneca Seeds has about only 80 employees in the UK, with the remainder overseas.

The joint venture will bring together bioscience and commercial resources to reinforce existing strengths in agricultural crops such as sugarbeet, maize, oilseeds, grasses, cereals, and vegetables. Zeneca Seeds now has annual worldwide sales of £150 million. It hopes to break even this year.

A spokesman for Zeneca said that the merged entity would have improved scope for profitability and strengthening its research and development base, marketing coverage, product span, and geographic spread.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

My Kinda Town plans expansion

MY KINDA TOWN, the restaurants group that owns the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory, Chicago Meatpackers and Henry J Bean's Bar and Grill, is looking to expand further in spite of a 23 per cent drop in first-half profits. Tough trading conditions in France, exacerbated by strikes and terrorist incidents in Paris, are blamed for a fall in group pre-tax profits to £1.02 million (£1.33 million) in the six months to December 31. Turnover, boosted by six new openings, grew 19 per cent to £15.2 million. There was an exceptional charge of £121,000, relating to French closure provisions.

The company, which operates a total of 44 outlets in 14 countries, said it is on target for at least 12 openings in this financial year. It recently emerged that My Kinda Town will manage Capital Radio's new 300-seat themed radio restaurant, which is due to open in London's Leicester Square by the end of the summer. The interim dividend is maintained at 1p and is payable on April 26, from earnings of 3.3p (4p) a share.

Tempus, page 26

Wagon warning

SHARES in Wagon, the engineering company, dropped 32p to 389p yesterday after it delivered a warning that full-year profits would fall below expectations. The company, which specialises in precision springs for the automotive industry, blamed a fall in demand and difficulties in integrating recent acquisitions. However, John Hudson, the chief executive of Wagon, said that underlying demand levels were expected to improve. He added: "It is still expected that reasonable progress will be made and the group approaches the new financial year with confidence."

German firms gloomy

GERMAN industry yesterday gave its gloomiest forecast on the economy for years, saying that it expects almost no growth and a jump in unemployment this year. Presenting its spring survey of German industry, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce (DIHT) undercut the growth forecasts of the Bonn Government by predicting stagnation. Franz Schoser, DIHT managing director, said: "The economy has cooled off again. We see very slight growth this year at best. The economy will have great difficulty regaining momentum . . . the mood among firms has hit a low point." The government is predicting 1.5 per cent growth in gross domestic product.

TBI's £17m in sales

TBI, the London and Cardiff-based property investment and development company, has disposed of a further £17.4 million of property investments. The investments sold include the first disposal from the Molyneux portfolio, which was acquired at the end of December. The Molyneux property is the long leasehold interest in a Cheshire shopping centre, which has been sold to Asda, the Leeds-based supermarket group, and brings the total from disposals since the beginning of TBI's financial year last April to nearly £25 million.

Reuters wins award

REUTERS has won this year's award for the best annual report and accounts. Triplex-Lloyd, the West Midland engineering company, won the award for smaller companies. Richard Sykes, QC, chairman of the judges of the awards, which are sponsored by the Stock Exchange and the three chartered accountancy institutes, described the Reuters accounts as "full of action and excitement" and praised the mass of material in the report's financial review. Although he thought the overall standard of reporting was "edging up", he said that many reports from smaller companies were "inept".

ACCOUNTANCY

Who will audit the auditors?

John Roques considers the needs of a body to oversee standards in the profession

Much time has been taken over the past few years over the arrangements for regulating and disciplining auditors. Several working parties have been set up and the most recent of these, chaired by Chris Swinson, is soon to issue its final report.

Some believe that this report will recommend that the disciplinary and regulatory activities of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales should be grouped under an office for professional standards and that a new body should consider the extent to which the public interest is served.

It is also expected to recommend that the position of the Auditing Practices Board should be considered by a working party. If true, these proposals are largely a continuation of the past and are just bureaucratic — not a sound future for the profession.

There are three principles that must underlie any new system. First, it must be seen to provide the level of independence that the public has a right to expect. Second, it must eliminate the duplication of disciplinary effort by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Institute. Third, it must be free of unnecessary levels of red tape for smaller audit firms. Most commentators also agree that practitioner-led regulation is more efficient so long as the public interest needs are met.

What solution would achieve these aims? Deloitte & Touche recommends that the whole organisation for regulating and disciplining "public interest entity" auditors should be supervised by the Financial Reporting Council, thus bringing the responsibility for controlling the development and enforcement of both accounting and auditing standards under one body.

The Auditing Practices Board would have an equivalent role to that of the Accounting Standards Board. A new disciplinary body, with powers not unlike those of the Review Panel, should take over the roles of both the Joint Disciplinary Scheme and inquiries made of professional firms by inspectors appointed by the DTI. This would meet the public expectation that all standard-setting, regulation and disciplinary activities should be dealt with under one umbrella independent of the institutes. The structure would be credible and have longevity as it builds on the considerable respect and stature which the Financial Reporting Council has already established. Only by separating the public interest cases and applying the requisite level of investigation and action to such cases, will it be possible to avoid the non-public interest cases and small audit firms being weighed down with unnecessary red tape. The difficulties of defining public interest should not be used as an excuse for keeping everything within one system. The profession's Joint Disciplinary Scheme has been applied to public-interest cases only for well over a decade.

Some argue that a fast-moving disciplinary panel would increase their litigation risks. There is an obvious response from those who seek fairness in these matters. In return for auditors sacrificing the shelter of the institutes, the DTI should change the law to provide for limited liability partnerships in the UK and follow the lead of the US Congress by substituting a system of proportional liability for joint and several liability for auditors.

Will these proposals be adequate for those who wish to establish an SEC in the UK? The SEC is expensive regulation and dominated by lawyers rather than those involved in the practices of financial reporting and auditing. There is no evidence that 50 years of regulation by the SEC has solved the problem of audit standards in the United States. If a government determines to establish a companies commission, this would not be a disaster by itself, so long as it restricted its activity in the regulation of the accounting profession to oversight of the Financial Reporting Council.

Some are concerned that our views diminish the standing of the Institute. I disagree. I think this gives them the opportunity to develop further the faculties that should be seen as world-class centres of excellence.

If the audit faculty took on leadership in a coherent strategy to prevent and detect corporate fraud, then we would really be back on the road to eliminating the expectation gap and re-establishing the standing of the profession.

The author is Senior Partner, Deloitte & Touche



John Roques lists three principles for any new system

The issues are now out in the open

THERE were times during last week's mournful press briefing to announce the failure of the attempt to merge the English ICA and Cima, the management accounting body, when you would have not been at all surprised to find both presidents breaking into the mode of the popular financial services advertisement and singing, "Let's face the music, and dance".

But, as events this week show, the real action, the positive work of the profession, continues unabated elsewhere. We have had a robust set of proposals from the Auditing Practices Board (APB), which redefine and clarify the strength of independent auditors; the opening of a tumultuous battle over the principles of financial reporting, and seen the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) under serious and sustained attack for the first time.

These are issues which are at the heart of what accountants are about, yet none of the debate or argument emanated from the English ICA. It might argue that this is not entirely truthful. The APB is an offshoot of the accountancy bodies, it could say. This is true. But the APB is striving desperately for freedom from the clammy and restrictive hand of its parent. The APB president, Ian Paistowe, of Arthur Andersen, made no secret of this earlier in the week. "We have told the accountancy bodies that we don't believe we belong with you," he said. Rumours are rife of shouting matches between Plaistowe and the institute leadership. This cannot be pleasant. Plaistowe is more of a rapier than a bludgeon man. These are painful times for Moorgate Place. But the leadership in the audit world is coming from the APB. Ian Percy, its vice-chairman, said this week that "auditing is about governance, it is critical for the confidence in business operations, our capital markets and the public sector". That sounds like someone who has got his priorities right. Equally, the extraordinary attack on the ASB by Ernst & Young takes the debate over the future of financial reporting out into the open. But it is open ground, far from the English institute.

The debate is one which was dealt with in these pages when the ASB first published its Statement of Principles. Now Ernst & Young is having one final push. The press release dramatised the issue: "The future of UK financial reporting — one month to decide", it was headed. This is not entirely true. Responses to the ASB's statement are indeed due in at the end of March. But that is not the end of the matter.

The argument has escalated. Nick Land, Ernst & Young's senior partner, has entered the fray. In the foreword to the firm's booklet, *Time to Decide*, he says that the ASB "seems to be pursuing a rather academic agenda of its own, unprompted by user demand, that envisages the abandonment of historical cost accounting in favour of a system based on current values".

Any readers who recall the interminable debates over accounting for inflation, as the debate over historical versus current values was once termed, will groan inwardly at this point. It is an endless and fruitless debate. Ian Davison, of Storehouse, who is no spring chicken himself, will tell you that his father was on one of the original working parties to debate the issue around the time that Everest was being conquered and Queen Elizabeth came to the throne. But the debate over current values will never be conquered. Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB, will argue that theory no longer matters on that one. It is simply the logic of substance over form which dictates a change. "Items in the balance sheet should be genuine assets and genuine liabilities", he will say. Ron Paterson, Ernst & Young's technical partner, who wrote the booklet, argues that Tweedie is academic to an extreme. "We are driven," says Paterson, "to the Luddite end of the spectrum to counter Tweedie's radical extremes." Maybe the heart of the matter can be seen in Nick Land's foreword. Referring to the ASB's principles he said: "Some of its proposals are theoretical to the point that they are scarcely comprehensible by most accountants and other businessmen. Accounting, traditionally the language of business, is at risk of being taken over by the rhetoric of theorists."

It is possible, perhaps, to read between the lines here. Company directors are conservative and dislike new rules. Finance directors find it painful to confront them with Tweedie's new realities. There is commercial advantage in being an accounting firm that seems to support the harassed company director against the bogey of radical accounting theorists. Whatever the reasons, it is good to be back on serious ground again.



ROBERT BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

TEN out of ten for sheer timing

SOMETIMES sheer accidents of timing do work out. Take the case of TEN, the television company that produces the monthly video-training package, *The Accountants' Channel*. Today sees publication of a polemic from Ernst & Young by its technical partner, Ron Paterson, seeking to rubbish the recent statement of principles issued by the Accounting Standards Board, chaired by Sir David Tweedie. And what should be on TEN's latest video — a furious debate on the subject between Tweedie and Paterson.

Prickly dispute

Scottish accountants who know Paterson and Tweedie well will be relieved that they are arguing over accounting matters. Normally it is the relative footballing merits, if any, of Partick Thistle and Falkirk.

DTI in retreat

The Department of Trade and Industry was savaged by just about everybody in the accountancy profession last week after the publication of the "Feasibility Investigation of Joint and Several Liability", particularly its negative approach to the possibility of allowing proportional liability. No surprise therefore to find the press office distancing itself: "It doesn't reflect our views. It's only a consultative document," seemed to be the line. Beleagured accountants can probably breathe again.

Reed rescue

Sir George Vallings was chief executive of Cima until last June. Then he devoted his efforts to proposals to merge Cima with the English ICA, which were abandoned last week. So it was good news for him the day the merger was pulled that he was appointed non-executive chairman of Reed Accountancy, the recruitment agency.

ROBERT BRUCE

Shares recover from early falls

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
595	470	Allied Domecq	585	+ 4	3.8	10.8
595	360	Bibby (JH)	585	+ 1	2.9	17.5
494	318	Bass	492	+ 1	3.3	12.1
485	404	Bellhaven	482	- 3	4.6	13.2
485	316	Highland Dist	482	+ 1	4.6	13.2
217	157	Matthew Clark	191		4.9	...
140	61	Morrison W	108	+ 4	2.3	...
2612½	1282½	SA Breweries	2587½		1.4	34.8

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3090½	2137½	ABN AMRO	2848½	+ 43½	4.6	10.8
663	413	Abbey Nat	662	- 1	4.1	11.5
2600	2000	Allied Irish	2444	- 10	4.2	...
2000	1700	Anz Mercantile	1944	- 11	5.4	...
4540½	3531½	Bank Montreal	4380	- 50	...	...
316	191½	Bank Scotland	312½	- ½	2.7	12.8
815	597½	Barclays	788	- 2	3.5	10.9
1000	788	Bk of Ireland	988	- 4	3.5	10.9
1000	818	Bk of Wales	980		3.8	7.8
4875	3650	Citicorp	4787½	- 71	...	...
382	216½	Close Bros	364	- 8	3.8	16.1
5165½	3720½	Commercial Bk	5150½	+200½	3.6	...
1375	885½	Dal Ichi Kan Y	1240½	- 12½	0.8	...
3327½	2770	Deutsche Bk	3210½	+ 9½	2.3	...
881½	562½	Equitable Supp	759½		4.7	10.2
1611	1128½	Fuji Bank Y	1547½	- 24½	0.4	...
1000	680	Govett Nat	978	- 4	6.7	13.5
2053	1600	Hambros	2011		4.7	...
1150	880	Hanson	1126	- 11	3.3	14.0
1088	978	HSBC Hk	1056	- 6	3.3	13.7
4231	3535	Irish Perm	4188	- 5	3.6	9.6
1665	1350	Joseph (L)	1650		2.8	15.6
1665	1350	King Shaxson	1650		2.8	15.6
2½	2	Lloyds Bk Y	2½		0.4	...
1852	1365	Lloyds TSB	1841	- 16	3.5	15.8
1252	1022	Nation Hldgs	1232	- 1	4.4	12.1
274	198	Natwest	270	- 1	3.7	12.8
1357	1040	Northern Rock	1340	- 1	3.7	12.8
1425	1100	Provincial	1400		3.6	13.2
1357	1040	Royal Bk Scot	1340	- 1	3.7	12.8
1425	1100	Standard Chtd	1400		3.6	13.2
1357	1040	Standard Life	1340	- 1	3.7	12.8
1425	1100	Sumitomo Bk	1400		3.6	13.2
1357	1040	Tokai Bk	1340	- 1	3.7	12.8
1425	1100	Union Discount	1400		3.6	13.2
1357	1040	Yasuda Trust	1340	- 1	3.7	12.8

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
868	28	Alpha Stk Hld	432	+ 4		0.1
1765	1487	Arcal Hldgs	1747	+ 2	3.8	10.7
487	288	Beddington	481	- 1	2.4	24.7
1765	42	Bk for the Brit	65		3.2	17.0
1825	1320	Bankrupt Brwl	1750		3.8	16.9
1765	1320	Bby Drinks Brwl	1694½	- ½	3.7	18.1
1765	1320	Chargeurs Int'l	1694½	- ½	3.7	18.1
1765	1320	Bibby P A'c	1694½	- ½	3.7	18.1
1765	1320	Bibby Ord Stk	1694½	- ½	3.7	18.1
1765	1320	Bibby Ord 'NV'	1694½	- ½	3.7	18.1
1765	1320	Bibby Ord Regd	1694½	- ½	3.7	18.1
1765	1320	Bibby Ord Warr	1694½	- ½	3.7	18.1
1765	1320	Bibby Ord Wts

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
01395 259 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gartland Amer	203.40	216.20	- 2.10	0.19
Gartland Equity	273.90	291.10	- 1.30	1.79
Gartland Gen	254.10	268.80	-	0.63
Gartland Fixed Int	129.40	134.10	- 0.60	4.41
Gartland Gilt	76.96	78.18	- 0.21	4.99
Gartland Japan	177.30	187.60	- 0.90	

AJA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

General Acc	630.30	670.60	- 2.20	2.57
General Inc	541.50	576.10	- 1.90	2.57
UK Growth Acc	427.60	455.20	- 1.30	2.77
UK Growth Inc	365.90	392.30	- 1.00	2.77
Higher Inc Acc	780.70	830.60	- 1.70	4.09
Higher Inc Inc	434.30	462.10	- 0.90	4.09
Gilt Fixed Int Acc	205.10	218.50	- 0.70	5.51
Gilt Fixed Int Inc	94.29	99.56	+ 0.04	5.51
Irish Revenue	249.90	371.20	- 6.20	
Europe	347.20	362.40	- 1.30	0.99
Far Eastern	84.50	90.12	- 0.29	2.06
Int Equity Acc	114.00	121.30	- 0.40	4.59
Int Equity Inc	79.80	84.90	- 0.08	4.59
Global Opps	98.51	104.80	- 0.50	0.17
Balanced Acc	51.80	55.75	- 0.19	2.70
Balanced Inc	99.10	62.92	- 0.17	2.70
Japan Acc	46.63	49.63	- 0.41	
Pac Basin Acc	427.60	453.30	- 2.50	0.65

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

Gilt & Fixed Int	130.10	138.00		7.25
High Int Equity	74.20	150.80	- 0.30	4.41
Worldwide Bond	207.10	201.50	- 0.20	4.60
American Growth	349.80	373.20	+ 4.00	0.88
Asian Growth	352.60	377.40	- 6.30	0.11
Balanced	295.60	314.40	- 2.10	2.71
Commercial Property	167.60	178.60	+ 0.40	0.56
Eqty Inc	44.18	47.00		6.55
Financial	200.10	297.30	- 0.80	2.90
General Opps	63.24	67.40	- 0.27	0.44
Japan	135.70	134.40	- 1.00	1.96
Managed Inc	47.64	50.66	- 0.08	5.59
Managed Acc	164.60	175.70	- 0.50	1.41
Pacific Basin	181.00	192.80	- 0.50	
UK Equity	182.50	194.40	- 1.00	3.10
UK Growth	76.91	81.82	- 0.26	2.48
UK Income	123.60	142.30	- 0.60	4.87
International	164.80	175.40	- 0.60	0.72
Short Gilt & Sec	97.96	99.82	- 0.02	4.99

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

Far East Inc	1073.00	2156.00		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 500

Accep Inc & Growth	57.92	60.15	- 0.48	0.51
Cash	50.58	50.58	+ 0.01	5.78
Emerging Mkts	72.36	76.63	- 0.20	0.04
European	135.80	143.20	- 0.80	
Eurotrust	1098.10	1076.60	- 6.10	1.73
Extra Income #	47.96	50.42	- 0.16	6.61
Far East Emg Eco	125.80	132.20	- 1.00	2.77
Fixed Interest #	23.75	24.96	- 0.01	9.51
Hundred Inc Fd	150.00	157.00	0.90	9.32
Japan	135.30	142.70	- 0.60	
Latin American	57.91	56.25	- 0.82	0.87
Pacific	87.09	91.44	- 0.43	0.29
Pacific Basin	60.13	66.27	- 0.18	2.63
UK Emg Cos	69.51	74.56	- 0.01	1.96
UK Growth	90.35	97.35	- 0.17	2.30
Abn Retail Fixed Int #	100.77	97.26	- 0.07	1.90
Ethical	75.64	79.45	- 0.25	2.25
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.78	50.78	- 0.06	7.39

For ISA/PEP see Matheson

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5858

Retail Property	94.18	101.10†		5.10

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Annty Income	35.71	38.94	- 0.26	2.23
Income Portfolio Inc	78.65	81.75	- 0.32	2.50

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01799 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts:				
Growth & Income	260.50	285.90	+ 0.20	3.25
Capital	472.70	505.30	- 0.40	1.23
Balanced	773.00	826.30†		2.52
Accumulator	1476.00	1577.00	+ 1.00	1.98
Income Trusts:				
American Income	59.10	63.09†	- 0.42	2.53
High Income	438.10	468.30	- 0.20	4.04
Equity Income	243.00	259.70†	+ 0.30	4.67
High Yield	253.70	271.80†	+ 0.30	4.67
Govt Securities:	34.18	36.08	- 0.11	6.05
International Trusts:				
Asian Spec Sits	196.60	211.90†	- 0.80	0.05
European Growth	45.62	49.62†	- 0.05	0.09
International	187.80	200.60†	- 0.10	0.11
Japan	205.20	219.30	- 0.50	
Pacific	434.40	464.30	- 1.00	
Spec of America	552.10	588.20	- 1.90	0.13
Swedish Assd Val	55.15	58.95†	- 0.05	0.02
Specialist Trusts:				
Asset Value	568.60	629.40	+ 0.30	1.60
Cons & Gilt	45.42	48.55†	+ 0.11	4.47
Smaller Cos	197.90	207.20†	- 0.50	1.08
2nd Smaller Cos	184.60	197.30	- 0.30	0.94
Recovery	159.20	170.10		1.66
Med Mkt & Cptl	173.20	185.10	- 1.00	0.17
Gross Earnings	398.60	426.10	- 0.90	1.18
Technology	211.80	226.40†	- 0.30	
Us Special Sits	548.50	584.20†	+ 0.10	1.07

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01255 428 911

Oriental Gen Prov.	115.90	119.90		3.04
Founders Pens Prov.	69.18	71.67		1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0933

Capital	78.53	93.54†	+ 0.15	1.76
International	68.95	74.41	- 0.96	

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

Americas	321.40	345.20	- 3.10	
Bond	116.50	122.60†	+ 0.40	6.65
Brit Smlr Cos	114.10	121.40†	- 0.20	1.69
Emrg & Gen #	68.62	74.06†	- 0.03	5.35
Europe	354.50	378.20	- 0.99	0.61
Euro Smlr Cos	115.80	123.40	- 0.10	0.63
Income Gwth	329.40	403.50	- 0.10	3.81
Japan	339.50	361.20	- 1.90	
Latin American	79.59	84.65	- 0.46	0.91
Pacific	120.90	128.60		1.13
UK Smlr Cos	58.03	61.73†	- 0.04	1.30
Japan Fd	674.80	695.90†	- 2.50	
Wrldpl Fd	195.40	207.60	+ 0.10	2.85

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 488 8673

Bnt & Irish	358.30	379.00		0.95
Capital Gwth	124.40	131.60		2.49
Irwide Opps	218.90	231.50		0.93

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 934 9544

Balanced Trusts:				
Bldr Inc Fd Inc	402.30	419.10	- 2.30	2.48
Emerging Bd Inc	93.71	97.00†	- 0.58	6.79
Energy	79.53	84.82	- 0.48	3.95
Financial	96.04	102.70	- 0.62	2.32
Gilt	483.90	533.10†	- 1.00	2.58
General	310.30	332.20	- 1.60	2.47
Financial	249.90	258.40†		6.46
Income	212.60	227.40	- 1.20	2.31
Income Trusts:				
Cash Inc	100.70	108.70†		5.54
Extra Income #	122.50	131.70	- 0.48	4.79
Gilt & Fixed Int	97.04	53.07†	- 0.09	8.57
Income #	170.10	86.90†	- 2.40	4.71
Income Builder #	89.55	73.16	- 0.24	5.33
Japan Income	89.73	74.18	- 0.47	3
Smaller Cos - UT				
General	138.60	142.50†	- 1.20	2.01
Income	167.70	172.50	- 1.50	1.98
Recovery	469.60	494.00†	- 3.10	2.57
Smlr Cos Inc	53.60	55.05	- 0.15	3.22
Special Sits	164.10	173.30	- 2.00	1.15
Overseas Trusts - Income:				
America	156.10	170.70	- 1.70	0.79
Far East	270.60	288.80	- 3.20	2.05
Euro Inc	163.70	174.10	- 2.00	2.09
Japan & Gen Inc	172.90	185.40	- 0.60	0.17
Japan Inc	62.00	121.50	- 0.30	
Japan Smlr Cos	72.27	76.56	- 0.23	
Pac Basin	199.90	205.20†	- 0.30	0.63

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	172.90	181.10	- 1.30	
Asian Growth	153.10	161.60	- 0.40	
Dividend	57.56	61.70	- 0.15	4.91
Europe	354.50	367.20	- 0.90	0.96
European Growth	158.60	169.30	- 0.30	1.39
Far East Inc	238.10	254.40	- 1.20	0.90
Global Bond	98.61	103.30	- 0.30	6.46
Global Growth	172.10	183.40	- 0.60	1.03
High Income	107.20	114.30	- 0.40	5.23
Japan Growth	204.40	218.00	- 1.00	
Pacific	434.40	464.30	- 1.00	
Spec of America	552.10	588.20	- 1.90	0.13
Swedish Assd Val	55.15	58.95†	- 0.05	0.02
Specialist Trusts:				
Asset Value	568.60	629.40	+ 0.30	1.60
Cons & Gilt	45.42	48.55†	+ 0.11	4.47
Smaller Cos	197.90	207.20†	- 0.50	1.08
2nd Smaller Cos	184.60	197.30	- 0.30	0.94
Recovery	159.20	170.10		1.66
Med Mkt & Cptl	173.20	185.10	- 1.00	0.17
Gross Earnings	398.60	426.10	- 0.90	1.18
Technology	211.80	226.40†	- 0.30	
Us Special Sits	548.50	584.20†	+ 0.10	1.07

BARCLAYS LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 623 4200

Balanced Cash	124.77	132.70	- 1.00	1.34
Bldr Inc	149.50	159.81†	- 0.71	4.14
Dividend	114.70	122.60	- 0.77	3.29
Dividend #	114.70	122.60	- 0.77	3.29
Equity	124.30	132.90	- 0.84	1.34
Equity Inc #	124.30	132.90	- 0.84	1.34
Fixed Int	97.65	99.55†	- 0.04	7.22
Fixed Int #	97.65	99.55†	- 0.04	7.22
Gilt	97.65	99.55†	- 0.04	7.22
Gilt #	97.65	99.55†	- 0.04	7.22
Income	124.30	132.90	- 0.84	1.34
Income #	124.30	132.90	- 0.84	1.34
Int Equity	97.65	99.55†	- 0.04	7.22
Int Equity #	97.65	99.55†	- 0.04	7.22
Managed	124.30	132.90	- 0.84	1.34
Managed #	124.30	132.90	- 0.84	1.34
Property	97.65	99.55†	- 0.04	7.22
Property #	97.65	99.55†	- 0.04	7.22

BARRATT LIFE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 483 1010

Capital Fixed Int	97.09	99.54	- 0.07	6.19

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5063

Growth	175.50	187.30	- 0.60	1.17
Income	187.90	200.30†	- 1.20	1.98
UK Income	144.50	153.90	- 0.70	4.23

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01737 227 369

Cdn Gen Gwth	222.45	235.50†	- 0.50	1.72
Cdn Income Dist	111.10	118.80		3.90
Ldn Agncy	197.10	209.00	- 0.10	
Ldn & Prov Fd Inc	49.23	47.50†	+ 0.01	6.36
Select Opps	236.40	250.70	- 0.50	2.63
Select Trust	125.50	133.10	- 0.30	2.63
Bond	241.80	256.50	- 1.00	7.01
Intl Growth	244.50	259.20†	- 1.00	0.18
North American	244.50	259.20	- 2.00	0.24
Far East	163.10	174.10	- 3.60	3.09
Int Equity	172.90	185.10	- 0.70	0.68
Int Equity Inc	62.00	121.50	- 0.30	
Japan Opps	72.27	76.56	- 0.23	
Japan Smlr	109.90	205.20†	- 0.30	0.63

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
01161 031 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455

Accession & Gen	203.10	213.60	- 2.40	
European Inc	88.97	94.25	+ 0.62	0.96
Smaller Cos (+1)	96.80	103.00	- 0.52	1.45
Growth	498.00	527.00†	- 0.30	1.03
Income & Growth #	543.00	575.30†	- 3.10	3.54
- do - Accum #	654.70	696.50	- 4.80	3.41
Asset & Gen	69.16	73.40	- 0.47	
Market Portfolio	1217.77	1215.45†	- 30.00	2.15
- do - Accum	1536.15	1749.54	- 42.90	2.15
Special Sits	115.50	122.90†	- 0.79	1.85
High Yield	214.40	214.50	- 1.06	4.28

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

Cazenove Portfolio	97.02	103.43	- 0.06	2.45
American Portfolio	116.64	123.82	- 0.19	0.91
European Portfolio	119.63	127.25	- 0.85	0.45
High Income	58.64	50.75†	- 0.08	7.41
Japanese Portfolio	68.77	73.19†	- 0.57	
Pacific Portfolio	161.88	174.47	- 1.00	1.36
Uk Inc & Growth	92.48	98.86	+ 0.18	2.86
Utility & Basic	57.79	58.46	+ 0.08	6.58

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

Inv Fund	149.24	154.46	+ 1.35	4.27
Fxd Int Sec	156.21	156.83	+ 1.63	9.12

COF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	126.60	147.12		4.34
Investment Acc	£132.82	£138.2[illegible]		
Fixed Int Inc	122.32	127.65		8.99
Fixed Int Acc	216.70	217.56		

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5866

Berkeley Int	90.60	95.56	- 3.40	3.11
Black Bay Fund	51.21	54.53		
Asian Ethical Tst	169.99	178.68		0.61
City Fin Assets	76.23	80.05		2.04
City Fin Americn	111.97	117.58	- 3.44	
City Fin Intl	90.33	96.95	- 1.35	0.83
City Fin Japan	150.33	157.86	- 3.12	
Financ Hon Kap	307.52	320.72†		2.38
Financ Hon Inc	201.54	214.40		3.15
Berkley Wrld Gth	144.67	156.28	- 0.07	
Fairmist Cap 'B'	150.27	164.18		
Fairmount Int	161.76	170.37		
J Sel Inc Gth Inc	57.21	59.09		1.56

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300
Emerging Markets: 59.03 62.62† - 0.46

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

American Growth	75.34	80.15	- 1.25	
Dimplex Growth	76.08	81.26	+ 0.01	0.87
Equity High Inc	90.01	95.75	- 0.21	4.66
- do - Accum	125.91	133.84	- 0.31	4.66
Extra Income Inc	36.17	37.59	- 0.03	7.56
Extra Income Acc	37.56	39.02	- 0.03	7.59
European Growth	59.91	63.66	- 0.35	0.99
Exempt	29.86	31.93	+ 0.11	
General Equity	97.62	103.58	- 0.19	2.88
Japan Growth	51.05	54.31	- 0.42	
Pacific Growth	58.86	62.62	- 0.20	2.62
Pref Sht Dist Inc	35.13	37.37	- 0.05	1.48
- do - Accum	36.99	39.35	- 0.06	1.48
Retirement Inc #	37.97	39.75	- 0.02	5.79
Special Sits	44.90	47.77	- 0.03	1.53
UK & Overseas	57.53	60.83	- 0.17	0.73

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 668 000

Balanced	66.34	68.01		4.07
Capital	78.47	81.63	- 0.05	1.86
High Income	50.25	52.27	- 0.05	
Top 50	52.85	54.98	- 0.15	

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818

PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds:				
Equity Inc	180.00	191.52	- 0.27	4.57
Fixed & Convertible	40.63	43.44	- 0.04	6.78
Monthly Inc Plus	48.94	52.06	- 0.01	6.61
Preference Share	46.34	49.30†	- 0.01	7.71
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	133.45	141.97†	0.30	5.72
Managed Fund	75.25	80.05	- 0.23	2.94
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	46.22	49.17	- 0.10	1.65
- do - Accum	53.80	57.23	- 0.12	1.65
Ut & General	90.97	96.78	- 0.35	2.64
- do - Accum	116.75	124.20	- 0.45	2.64
UK Growth	172.96	184.00	- 0.38	2.20
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	204.22	217.26	+ 0.07	0.11
Far Eastern Gnth	143.37	152.52	- 0.47	
Global Bond	84.11	89.41	- 0.35	5.91
Japan Growth	116.92	124.44	- 0.97	
North Amer Gnth	223.91	238.20	- 2.76	
Oriental Growth	89.57	95.29	- 0.67	0.06
Worldwide Growth	73.05	78.38	- 0.35	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.16	93.16	+ 0.01	5.56
Homesaver Fund	89.85	95.59†	- 0.44	1.58
Dollar Fund	148.59	158.07†	- 0.89	1.97

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5866

Consistent Ut	34.05	36.46†		3.40

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 356

Growth	175.20	186.40	+ 2.00	1.34
Income	70.88	75.40†	+ 0.01	5.60
European	69.08	73.50	+ 0.58	0.47
Recovery	165.00	176.60		1.84

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
01271 263 9494

Equity Dist	939.50	363.80		1.38

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 890 370

Fellowship Tst	98.70	105.00	- 0.30	1.43
Income #	276.20	293.80	- 0.70	4.07
- do - Accum #	708.30	753.50	- 0.90	4.07
Smaller Cos	269.90	323.30†	- 0.70	1.03
- do - Accum	259.50	276.00	- 0.90	1.03
Inv Portfolio	95.04	101.10†	- 0.30	1.68
High Inc Port #	79.44	84.51	- 0.29	4.22

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 410 0777

Euro Small Cos	1613.20	1686.70		
Japan Small Cos	1291.90	1318.00		
Uk Small Cos	1998.80	2070.60†		
US Small Cos	2014.60	2054.70		

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 377 8618

Disc Inc	252.50	264.20		3.02

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01371 810 2500

European Gwth	306.90	324.30	+ 0.90	0.65
New Asia	251.20	267.80	- 0.50	0.21
Japan Growth	112.70	119.30	- 0.40	
Jap Smlr Cos	490.40	490.20	- 2.60	
Nth Amer	379.60	401.90	- 2.20	0.73
Uk Inc & Gth	241.30	257.80	- 0.40	2.75

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 555

UK Balanced Inc	159.00	169.10	- 1.10	1.91
UK High Inc Inc	167.30	177.90	- 1.00	3.64
- do - Accum	221.80	235.90	- 1.20	3.64
Gilt Fixed & F I Inc	58.97	62.21	- 0.01	5.95
Exempt Opps	94.76	100.80	- 0.32	0.59
UK Smlr Cos #	62.14	66.10	- 0.16	0.80
Extra Income Inc	47.24	50.25†	- 0.11	7.80

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 526

American	154.50	174.70	- 1.70	0.48
Commodities #	22.11	23.49	+ 0.01	5.96
Equity Income #	138.40	147.10	- 0.20	4.00
Exempt	58.81	60.32	- 0.50	3.95
Financial	52.26	55.53	- 0.26	2.32
Growth & Inc #	272.10	295.10†	- 0.20	2.87
High Dist #	173.40	184.20	- 0.10	4.61
International	440.50	468.00	- 1.70	0.11
Inv Cap Inc	105.20	112.30†	- 0.30	3.94
Latin American	30.29	32.18	- 0.19	
Pacific	90.77	96.57	- 0.06	
Prof High Inc	97.87	103.94†	+ 0.06	7.10
Tokyo	233.40	247.80	- 1.50	
Ut Smaller Cos	247.60	263.10	- 0.50	1.15

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

BN Directors Divs	104.60	111.67	+ 1.76	4.38
Growth Acc	243.40	259.32	- 0.03	0.78
Income	202.11	213.60†	- 1.12	3.44

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

Endurance Fd	236.10	249.50		1.09

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 480

Balanced	85.97	93.75	- 0.51	1.82
Ethical Tst	47.19	49.67†	+ 0.03	0.69
Far Eastern	253.78	269.93	- 0.91	1.59
High Income	138.81	146.72	+ 0.16	4.66
Intl Growth	134.47	142.34	- 0.62	0.13
North American	139.85	148.16	- 0.62	0.13
Pension	133.65	140.68	- 0.11	1.12
Smaller Cos	68.44	73.09	- 0.06	2.80
Special Sits	72.62	76.49	- 0.11	2.95
Ret Inv Tst	207.75	218.65†	- 0.53	1.69

EVERGREEN FUND MGMT LTD
01771 400 5966

Smaller Cos Inc	110.79	122.46	- 0.17	1.27
Smaller Cos Acc	371.73	395.13	- 0.57	1.27
Recovery	53.25	56.65	- 0.15	1.50
Recovery Acc	54.34	58.02	- 0.15	1.50

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
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Capital Growth	86.50	92.76	- 0.79	
Portfolio Inc	95.23	101.95†	- 0.50	0.54
High Income #	98.99	71.09†	- 0.74	11.01
Balanced	131.61	140.21	- 0.77	
Zero Preference	41.72	44.21	- 0.13	

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 707

Family Asset Tst	84.27	89.64†	- 0.41	3.29
Family Income Tst	46.53	49.10†	- 0.04	6.13
Family Trust	42.81	34.73†	- 0.30	2.89
Unit Trust	274.60	292.90	- 1.90	3.25

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Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		5.00
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Gilt & Fxd Int	37.65	37.56†	- 0.04	7.22
Int Bond	29.95	30.77†	- 0.05	5.45
Income Funds				
High Income	124.91	134.99†	- 0.03	5.36
Special Sits	125.25	133.01†	- 0.06	4.65
Acorn Eq Inc	65.73	69.79†	- 0.07	3.73
Exempt Income	98.22	104.27†	- 0.11	4.72
Extra Income	87.37	92.77†	- 0.09	6.59
Global Convertible	24.69	26.20	- 0.03	2.66
Uk Dly Gnth	28.83	30.65	- 0.17	2.51
Equity Funds:				
ASEAN	73.97	78.54	- 0.71	
Continental	316.66	333.48	- 2.60	
Amer Gwth Sels	123.68	131.30	- 0.26	
Japan Smaller Cos	96.30	96.62†	- 0.27	
European	209.70	219.60	+ 0.50	0.62
European Opps	72.01	76.43	- 0.19	0.14
Global Pro	29.94	31.84	- 0.06	0.70
Uk Growth	113.60	120.60	- 0.10	1.16
Growth & Inc #	163.63	174.00	- 1.00	2.78
Int PEP	44.36	47.12	- 0.26	1.63
Japan Spec Sits	91.78	97.72†	- 0.17	
Japan	282.10	298.40	- 1.30	
Managed Int	128.29	136.29	- 0.50	0.43
Managed Inc	128.29	136.29	- 0.50	1.15
Oriental Income	204.22	217.26	+ 0.07	0.11
Pacific	99.77	99.57	- 0.06	
Pref High Inc	97.87	103.94†	+ 0.06	7.10
Tokyo	233.40	247.80	- 1.50	
Uk Smaller Cos	247.60	263.10	- 0.50	1.15

FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 514 2700

Managed #	143.00	151.70	1.00	1.75
Inc Plans #	91.26	97.39†	- 0.26	4.12
Cap Plans	117.70	125.30	- 1.30	1.46
General Opps	135.40	137.10	- 0.70	5.03
Kleinwrt Inc	34.99	36.82	- 0.09	1.65
Private Portfolio	466.00	477.80†	- 0.50	1.13

FORBES & COLONIAL UNIT MGT
Enq 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 261 010

Euro Smlr Cos	138.50	147.10	- 0.50	0.37
Emrg Mkts	169.00	172.20	- 0.66	
Far East	29.00	29.66†	- 0.01	3.79
Hi Income	109.80	117.10	- 0.60	4.29
Uk Smaller Cos	392.50	413.30	- 1.90	

FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0171 497 5866

- do - Inc Fd Inc	29.83	63.94	- 0.59	4.05
Investment Trust	105.10	110.51	- 0.77	
Uk Smaller Cos	99.55	103.63†	- 0.66	0.91

FRANKLINSTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Enq: 0171 320 8500 Dealing: 0345 775511

American Growth	74.73	79.68	- 0.88	
- do - Accum	74.73	79.68	- 0.88	
Amer Smlr Cos	622.80	666.10	- 8.40	
- do - Accum	636.20	680.50	- 8.60	
Capital Tst	366.10	392.00	- 0.60	1.22
- do - Accum	521.60	554.90	- 0.60	1.22
Cont Smlr Cos	61.86	65.95	- 0.43	0.90
- do - Accum	65.28	69.59	- 0.45	0.90
Convertible	136.70	144.90†	- 0.30	5.16
- do - Accum	288.10	307.50†	- 0.60	5.16
Emerging Markets	69.27	74.01	- 0.81	
- do - Accum	69.51	74.26	- 0.81	
European	133.30	141.30	+ 0.40	0.43
- do - Accum	148.20	148.60	+ 0.50	0.



■ FILM 1

Jane Austen proves the perfect balm for our troubled times, as *Sense and Sensibility* comes to the big screen



■ FILM 2

A look at the side of Edinburgh tourists never see in a gritty movie about heroin addicts, *Trainspotting*

THE TIMES FILMS ARTS



■ FILM 3

... while *Casino* offers plenty of detail but not enough drama, as Scorsese goes behind the scenes in Las Vegas



■ TOMORROW

Meet Alanis Morissette, check out the latest albums, revisit the Brit Awards: all in Pop on Friday

Frills, furbelows and the feelgood factor

CINEMA: In a good week for film, **Geoff Brown** finally hands the palm to *Sense and Sensibility*

Who said cinema does not reflect life's rich tapestry? This week you can watch hearts flutter and irony creep among bonnets, top hats and grazing sheep in the newest outbreak of Jane Austen fever, *Sense and Sensibility*. Edinburgh's finest drug users show their mettle injecting, puking and blasting out foul language in *Trainspotting*; while Martin Scorsese's eagerly awaited *Casino* basks in the violence lurking behind the glitter of Las Vegas.

True, this still leaves some areas of human activity unaccounted for, like the daily routine in a VAT office. But not everything can be cinematic. For a long time Austen herself was considered beyond the pale. All those elegant, curling sentences! All those social rituals of a bygone age! Hollywood has not shown an interest since the movie of *Pride and Prejudice*, made in 1940 during one of MGM's bouts of Anglophilia.

But now Austen seems the perfect balm for our troubled times. There is no violence in **Sense and Sensibility**, beguilingly filmed by the Taiwanese director Ang Lee from a screenplay by Emma Thompson, unless you count the stumble in the rain that brings an Adonis on horseback riding up to the susceptible Marianne and her strained ankle. There are no guns, no drugs, no ghetto kids. For frazzled urban audiences, *Sense and Sensibility* and its small-screen sisters are a return to a world that was clean, leafy and safe.

But the appeal reaches beyond mere nostalgia. Feminists may chafe at the circumscribed lives of Austen's heroines, but in some ways her characters are made to order for the 1990s. The engines that drive her plots are money, property and status. In *Sense and Sensibility* the Dashwood family faces social ruin when the father's death and the diversion of the inheritance to a stepbrother leaves them foundering without a home and on an annual income of £500.

The children of the Thatcher years appreciate such torments; and Lee, director of *The Wedding Banquet* and *Eat Drink Man Woman*, has assembled a cast that, by and large, subtly calibrates the moods appropriate to a tale of hearts impulsive, hearts restrained, and money's lure. Thompson's dry wit finds a ready vehicle in Elinor, the eldest Dashwood daughter, the one who has sense, and whose heart is held in check. But the performance you notice comes from Kate Winslet (one of the bad girls in *Heavenly Creatures*). She bubbles delightfully as the impetuous Marianne, whose suitors include a brooding colonel (Alan Rickman, unusually restrained) and Greg Wise's Willoughby, the Adonis of the ankle, ever ready with romantic patter.

Sense and Sensibility
Curzon Mayfair
U, 136 mins
Deft and radiant Jane Austen adaptation

Trainspotting
Warner West End
18, 90 mins
Abrasive junkie drama

Casino
Empire, 18, 178 mins
Scorsese hits Las Vegas

Then there is Hugh Grant. "Why did we cast him? He's much prettier than I am," Thompson wrote in the diaries published with the screenplay. Whatever his charms, his bizarre performance as Edward Ferrars, Elinor's beau, is not their best advertisement. True, Austen states that Ferrars is diffident; but Grant's tongue-tied manner and physical bearing suggests someone stuffed. Hair tousled, he stands awkwardly, the head slightly cocked, the neck invisible between fashion's bouquet of cravat, tie and collar. A taxidermist could not have done better.

By exaggerating Ferrars's lack of social flair, Lee renders his romance with Elinor more shadowy than necessary. What, you keep thinking, could the spirited Elinor ever see in this man who belongs under a glass dome? This inflicts some damage as the film progresses. As the story wends from Sussex to Devon, to London and back, the material's limitations show. For an Austen film where characters' feelings really matter, you should choose *Persuasion*, based on her mature last novel, not the featherweight *Sense and Sensibility*, based on her first.

Yet there is always something to relish, even after the film slides gently into a rut. Michael Coulter's slightly bleached photography is a constant joy, glorying in green fields, grey skies and the honey-coloured stones of country houses, without making a fetish of prettiness.

Working from Thompson's agile script (her first for cinema) Lee creates a film that moves like a gazelle. It takes a special confidence to be quiet and subtle in a movie financed by Hollywood, but Lee has the requisite gift.

INTERIOR. HORRIBLE TOILET. DAY. This is not from the script for *Sense and Sensibility*, but for *Trainspotting*. Here you are thrown into the lives of heroin addicts from the side of Edinburgh tourists never see: lives full of suppositories, needles, retching and writhing, pint glasses dropped on to people's heads, and drug fiends descending into a toilet for their fix.

Although the sights may never be pretty, the tone, at least at first, is almost upbeat. "People think it's all about misery and desperation and death ... but what they forget is the pleasure of it. Take the best orgasm you ever had, multiply it by a thousand and you're still nowhere near it," says Ewan McGregor's Renton, the leading character in a jumble of junkies, layabouts and psychos. The words come from Irvine Welsh's cult novel, packaged for the movies by the team that made *Shallow Grave*: writer John Hodge, director Danny Boyle and producer Andrew Macdonald. That black comedy, however, was nothing next to this ferocious beast. Swerving madly, scene by scene, from realism to fantasy, driven forward by a pounding rock soundtrack, the film offers audiences no refuge. There is no condemnation of drug use, no matter how vile the consequences appear. Nor is there a strong plot to provide the comforts of fiction: Hodge's script retains the fragmentary quality of Welsh's novel, and we must fend for ourselves among the characters and striking images thrust before us.

Renton can at least reflect on his life and consider alternatives. Among the others, Spud (Ewen Bremner) is too spaced out to notice, while Begbie (Robert Carlyle) is consumed with psychopathic violence. Carlyle's unnerving performance gives the film much of its punch and sense of danger.

For young audiences willing to go with the flow, wherever it leads, *Trainspotting* offers an adrenalin rush, a sense of life ripped from the gutters, and the appeal of amorality. Those further on in life will admire the film's verve; may even relish observing behaviour rarely seen on British screens; but will totter out weary and numbed, ready for an early night.

Last but not least in this tumultuous week, we reach Martin Scorsese's **Casino**. Right at the beginning you know you are in for something grand when a car bomb explodes, flames leap up and a body falls through space to the sounds of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. We seem to be mourning the end of the world — Robert De Niro's world, at any rate. He starts as a bookie, an associate of the Mob in Kansas City. When the bosses want a stake of Las Vegas in the early 1970s, De Niro, alias Sam "Ace" Rothstein, is sent to take control. By the end of the decade he is king of the Strip, until an unstable wife (Sharon Stone), a thuggish sidekick (Joe Pesci) and his own blind pride bring about his downfall.

You can tell from the urgent pace, the immaculate dovetailing of shots, music and voiceover commentary, that a master director is at work. Scorsese means business. Unfortunately we have seen the business before, especially in *GoodFellas*, another epic of Mafia life splattered with violence and Pesci running amok. De Niro plays the grand seigneur, who exercises rigorous control over the gambling tables and struts in fancy clothes; Pesci's Nicky Santoro is the prancing demon who extracts information by putting a man's head in a vice. Both performances are a pleasure to watch, but their element of surprise has gone.

The surprise, instead, comes from Sharon Stone, who is called upon to act far more than usual and meets the challenge. When we first meet her character Ginger McKenna, she's a gambling table vamp, luring big spenders. But as Rothstein's wife all her insecurities show: pills, the booze, and an unsavoury old flame (James Woods) bring her down, triggering the apocalypse with which the film opens.

But ultimately all characters — derived from life by Nicholas Pileggi, writer of *GoodFellas* — take second place to the sweeping depiction of Las Vegas at work. We see in fascinating detail how casino money is won, lost, sorted, packaged, diverted and skimmed. If the human drama carried the impact of the background detail, *Casino* would be a great picture; as the film stands, Scorsese is only half-way there.



Emma Thompson, rapidly becoming a one-woman Hollywood hit machine, has been Oscar-nominated for both her acting in and her script for *Sense and Sensibility*. The wooden Hugh Grant, on the other hand, takes diffidence to tongue-tied extremes as her eventual soulmate

SNAP VERDICT

Every week on Moviewatch *young film fans discuss new releases. Today's panel comes from Greater London ...*

CASINO

Jim Irving, 22: Visually stunning and the actors were great. But too much voice-over, especially in the first hour.

Afshan Waheed, 21: I disagree. The narration added to what was already a brilliant film. Worth seeing just for Sharon Stone's frocks.

Iddo Goldberg, 20: If you've seen *GoodFellas* you don't want to see another movie that's exactly the same. Even the actors are the same.

Celeste Thomas, 18: An amazing film, and Sharon Stone is the best I've ever seen her. But three hours is too long.

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Afshan: I was bitterly disappointed. The screenplay is excellent, but Emma Thompson is too old for Hugh Grant; she could be his mother.

Iddo: I disagree. I don't usually like costume drama, but I really got into it. Alan Rickman was tremendous — in fact, everything was great until Hugh Grant came in. He looked like he'd stepped off the set of *Four Weddings*.

Celeste: Hugh Grant shouldn't have been in it; otherwise a really good film.

Jim: An opportunity missed: a strong story, but you didn't see enough of the countryside — it was all too tight. And there wasn't enough music.

TRAINSPOTTING

Iddo: A wham-bam, in-your-face-man, amazing film. This movie does not recognise any barriers. It's a real "now" film; it describes our times.

Celeste: The most stunning piece of work I've seen in the cinema for ages. Definitely for the young and open-minded, but go and see it.

Jim: Superb. It mixed humour with sadness. One moment you were disgusted by the characters, the next you were laughing at them. And the soundtrack was perfect; it added another dimension.

Afshan: A top-class British film. I don't feel that the main message was drugs; the main point was the interaction between the characters. You're not going to come out and look for the nearest dealer.

● *In association with Chapter One's* Moviewatch, *shown tonight at 6.30pm on Channel 4*

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SENSE AND SENSIBILITY U

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CHOICE 1

Philip Schofield dons Joseph's Technicolor Dreamcoat

VENUE: From tonight at the Labatt's Apollo



CHOICE 2

Alexander Lazarev in Glasgow with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Concert Hall

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE

David Hare's brilliant *Skylight* transfers to the West End, fresh from its triumph at the Oliviers



DANCE

Darcey Bussell is the life and soul of the party, as Covent Garden celebrates its fiftieth anniversary

LONDON

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT First night of previews for Philip Schofield, playing the lad with the pretty jacket in a nine-week revival of the first Lloyd Webber/Rice creation.
Labatt's Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-416 6082). Tonight-Feb 26, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Feb 27.

MASTERPIECES FROM ROME London is about to be treated to part of one of the finest private collections of Old Master paintings in the world. The Doria Pamphilj Gallery in Rome was founded in 1650 by Pope Innocent X and the exhibition opening today includes his portrait by Velazquez, the first time it will be seen outside Italy. Also on loan are works by Caravaggio, Raphael, Titian, Lorenzo Lotto and Annibale Carracci, among others, plus busts by Baroque masters Bernini and Algardi.
National Gallery, Room 30, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 2pm-6pm. Until May 19.

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW Principal guest conductor Alexander Lazarev returns to the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** this week for the premiere of Gordon McPherson's *On E*, an RSNO commission. They are joined by Aberdeen's Yggdrasil Quartet for a programme that includes Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro* and Sibelius's Symphony No 2.
Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street (0141-227 5511). Rpt tomorrow in **Edinburgh**, Usher Hall (0131-228 1155). Both at 7.30pm.

NORWICH Step into a backstage musical with a difference, as Cole Porter's sizzlingly tuneful **Kiss Me Kate** returns. Eleanor Bennett and Joe Corbet play the stars of a travelling theatre who find their own stormy love-life reflected in *The Taming of the Shrew*.
Playhouse, Gun Wharf, St George's Street (01603 766466). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Mar 16.

NOTTINGHAM The comedy duo Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis step into their first theatre roles with **All in the Timing**, six short plays by Off-Broadway writer David Ives. One was the inspiration for the film *Groundhog Day*.
Playhouse, Wellington Circus (0115-941 9419). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Feb 26, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Mar 7 and 9, 2.30pm. Until Mar 16.

SWINDON Nicolae Moldoveanu, the **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**'s Romanian assistant conductor, takes up the baton for this week's programme of Russian favourites from Mussorgsky, Borodin and Tchaikovsky.
Wyvern, Theatre Square (01793 524481). Rpt tomorrow in **Plymouth**, Pavilions (01752 229922). Both at 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Hellenistic World: Art and Culture (0171-636 1555). **Leighton House**: At Home with Lord Leighton (0171-602 3316). **Hayward**: Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144). **National Gallery**: At Home with Constable's *Cornfield* (0171-747 2885). **National Portrait Gallery**: Faces of the 80s (0171-306 0055). **Royal Academy**: Frederic Leighton (0171-439 7439). **Serpentine**: Jana Sterbak (0171-723 9072). **Tate**: Cézanne; Turner's "Drawing Book"; the *Liber Studiorum* (0171-887 8000). **V&A**: The Leighton Frescoes; Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500).

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **THE CHANGING ROOM**. David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. Third in the season of Royal Court Classics.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **CHAPTER TWO**: Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's still entertaining comedy.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm.

□ **LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS**: Helen McCrory, Joseph Fiennes, Rupert Graves in Simon Callow's disappointing and lo-ng (4 and a half hours) version of the film.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today, 2pm, 7.15pm. In rep.

◪ **GULP FICTION**: Eddie Nestor and Robbie Gee (from *The Posse*), play two ex-cons strangely named Reggie and Ronnie, who find life back in the East End a tough challenge after the easy years behind bars.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Tue-Sat, 8pm.

◪ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **LAUGHING WILD**: Opening night for Christopher Durang's sharp comedy about a couple of pretty crazy New Yorkers. Actor Henry Goodman makes his British directing debut.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2255). Tonight, 7.45pm. Then Tue-Thurs, Sat and Sun, 7.45pm; Fri, 8.15pm; mats Sat and Sun, 2.30pm. Until Mar 17.

■ **LEE EVANS**: The rubber-boned comedian, here for a short season.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5049). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 6pm and 8.30pm.

◪ **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC**: Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias of Sondheim's Swedish charmer. Jula Dench, Patricia Hodge, Sian Phillips and Lambert Wilson among the stars shining in the night.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.15pm; mat Tue, 2pm.

□ **PRESENT LAUGHTER**. Peter Bowles is Gary Essendine in Noel Coward's exaggerated self-portrait of a star pursued by devotees and love-hating every minute of it. Richard Oliver directs, Caroline Langrishe and Deborah Grant co-star.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-379 3367). Now previewing, 8pm, mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 4pm. Opens Feb 27.

◪ **TOMMY**: Pete Townshend's famous musical stars the 19-year-old hitherto unknown Paul Keating as the deaf, dumb, blind pinball wizard, with Kim Wilde as his mum. Des McAnuff, co-writer of the book, directs.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Now previewing, 8pm; Wed, Sat, 3pm. Opens Mar 5.

□ **VALLEY SONG**: Athol Fugard's first play since the end of apartheid interestingly mourns aspects of the past while welcoming, with degrees of enthusiasm, the future. Fugard himself acts two roles.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

BED OF ROSES (PG): Wiling, whimsical romance set in a fairy-tale New York, with Mary Stuart Masterson and Christian Slater. Director, Michael Goldenberg.
Plaza (0171-437 1234)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG): Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams. Director, Joe Johnston.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMtc Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

OTHELLO (12): Laurence Fishburne as the jealous Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago. Lively version for general audiences. Director, Oliver Parker.
Barbican (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Richmond** (0181-332 0033) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

ULYSSES' GAZE (PG): Portentous epic with striking moments from Greek master Theo Angelopoulos, with Harvey Keitel as a film-maker journeying through the Balkans.
Lumiere (0171-836 0691) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

CURRENT

CLOCKERS (18): Spike Lee's heavy-handed version of Richard Price's novel about young drug-dealers in Brooklyn. With Harvey Keitel, Delroy Lindo and Mekhi Phifer.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15): Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, rose-tinted drama, director, John N. Smith.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12): Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A no-roaring thriller with a sense of humour with Sean Bean.
Odeon Mezzanine (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

◆ **JOHNNY MNEMONIC** (15): The Yakuza want the contents of Keanu Reeves's head. Futuristic folly from cyberpunk author William Gibson. Director, Robert Longo.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue.
MGMtc Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **A LITTLE PRINCESS** (U): Marvellous rendering of the children's classic, with Liesel Matthews as the boarding school girl plunged from riches to rags. Director, Alfonso Cuarón.
MGMtc Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6748) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

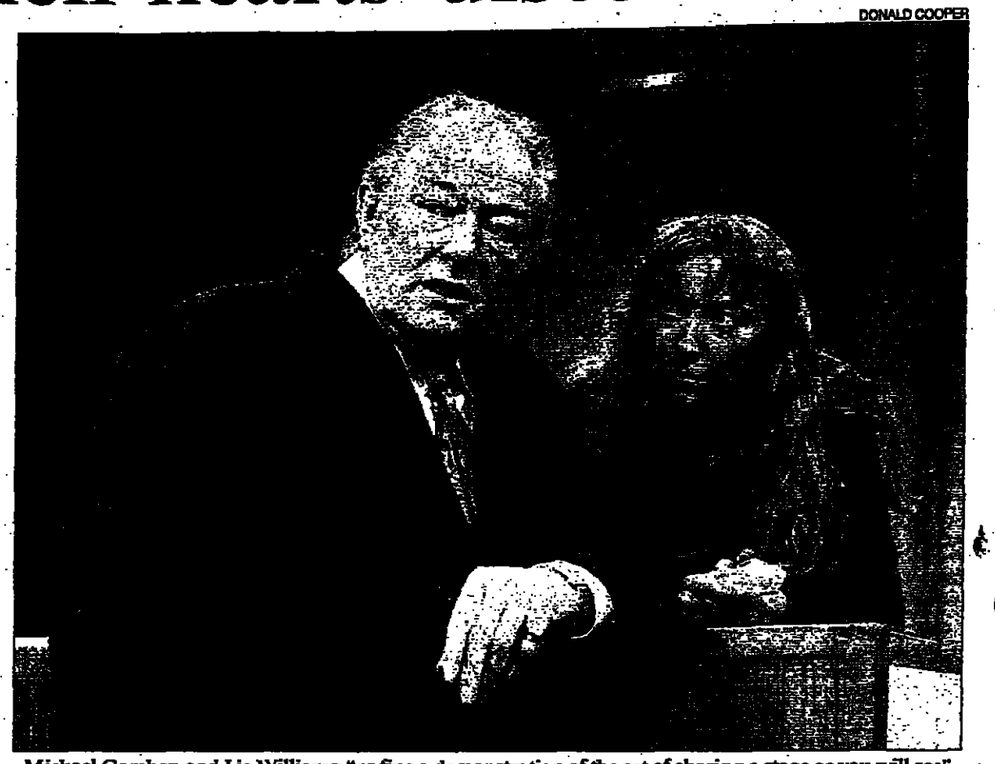
RENDEZ-VOUS IN PARIS (PG): Three tales of love and chance. Featherweight delight from Eric Rohmer, with a youthful cast of unknowns.
Minema (0171-235 4225) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

◆ **SABRINA** (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just does not work. Director, Sydney Pollack.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMtc Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031)

◆ **JOHNNY MNEMONIC** (15): The Yakuza want the contents of Keanu Reeves's head. Futuristic folly from cyberpunk author William Gibson.

To their hearts' discontent

DONALD COOPER



Michael Gambon and Lia Williams: "as fine a demonstration of the art of sharing a stage as you will see"

THEATRE

Skylight
Wyndham's

My vote for the best play of 1995 went to *Pentecost*, David Edgar's portrait of Babel in the Balkans, but a second look at my runner-up leaves me wondering if I should not have demanded a photo or a stewards' inquiry before announcing a winner. *Skylight* strikes me as a stronger, more involving piece than the big, magisterial works its author, David Hare, wrote for the National earlier in the 1990s. Indeed, it may be his most successful attempt to reconcile private and public themes since *Plenty* way back in 1978. The Olivier judges did not err when they declared it first past the post.

The quality of Richard Eyre's cast is not exactly a handicap. Lia Williams and Michael Gambon were impressive enough when the play opened at the Cottesloe last May; but the nine months since then have matured their give-and-take into as fine a demonstration of the art of sharing a stage as you will see in London. They bring to life personal grief and passion, and they retain your belief and attention as the personal becomes political. They make the potentially abstract emotionally concrete.

At one level this is *Brief Encounter* for the 1990s. Williams's Kyra conscientiously departed when the wife of the restaurateur with whom she was having an affair, Gambon's Tom, discovered their secret. Three years later he is a rich, unhappy widower and she has become a slum schoolteacher, busing down the North Circular to the East End every day. Now he visits the dreary Willesden flat that John Gunter's race memories of Dickensian cold and London damp have recreated. There is a meeting of bodies but a division of minds, and an awful muddle where hearts are involved.

Gambon's big, rasping Tom rampages past the one-bar electric fire to the sub-1950s kitchen like a white rhino sniffing out territory or a tank that has strayed into bumpy terrain. Williams's Kyra fills her silences with as much tension as she does her words. The atmosphere veers this way and that, becoming wary, nostalgic, excited, sexy, suspicious, angry, exhausted, and as sad as a doomed attempt to fan ashes back into flame was bound to be.

But *Brief Encounter* has been reworked by a dramatist who does not see love and England as separate islands. Feelings merge with opinions, opinions with feelings. Tom has ossified, Kyra changed. She is a one-time high-flyer now proud to be one of the despised professionals who "clear out society's drains". He is a businessman floundering in an era of bankers and consultants. He cannot accept, or understand, her independence.

Does it sound as if the play is getting pi and priggish, adjectives which Hare has ruefully directed against his own work? Believe me, *Skylight* is not. There is something arid and self-punishing about Kyra, for all her righteousness. There is juice in Tom, despite his arrogant philistinism. She stands, I suppose, for concern for people in general, and he for concern for the individual; but Hare permits neither a walkover. Each has a point of view to put and a case to answer.

Shaw brought as much fun to the task of argument, rebuttal and the shifting of sympathies, but never as much feeling. Watch a blustering Gambon suddenly collapse in mottled-eyed tears. See Williams pucker and weep as she, too, senses her own loss and failure. Together, they leave you thinking and caring and not quite sure when the one reaction ends and the other begins.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Birthday bash for a reawakened beauty

DANCE

Anniversary Gala
Covent Garden

IT MAY be known as the Royal Opera House but this was ballet's night. On February 20, 1946, it was the ballet that reopened Covent Garden after the war with a performance of *The Sleeping Beauty*. So it was right and proper that on Tuesday, 50 years to the day later, the historic reawakening of one of the world's great houses should be marked by the ballet again, and with *Sleeping Beauty*.

The anniversary party had an impressive guest list, from the Queen and John Major to the 97-year-old founder of the Royal Ballet herself, Dame Ninette de Valois. But like many a good bash, this one was slow to get going. Whether it was a case of royal gala nerves, or just the midwinter blahs, no one on stage seemed to be raring to go. Anthony Twiner and the ROH Orchestra were making a hash of Tchaikovsky's score: tempos were confused and the master's lush melodies had to be dragged out of the pit. The cast in the Prologue — with the exception of Anthony Dowell's masterful Carabosse — went through their paces with the bland well-meaningness of dinner guests politely discussing the weather.

Dowell's new production of *Sleeping Beauty* is anyway much criticised, largely because of Maria Bjornson's excessively fussy and oversized Mannerist designs. But this is the *Beauty* of the Nineties so there is no point in trying to turn the clock back to 1946's cherished version.

Instead, it was left to the birthday girl Aurora to make us all glad we had come to this particular party. And Darcey Bussell, like the star she is, did everyone proud. From the flurry of happy footwork in her initial entry to the bold sweep of her sumptuous Rose Adagio, Bussell's dancing signalled that here was a ballerina who could rise to the big occasion.

This Aurora knew she was at a party and she was determined to be the life and soul of it. She paraded her astonishing poise and irresistible charm with genuine magnanimity, her heart just about bursting with the joy of celebration. And Bussell, inheriting Margot Fonteyn's role of 50 years ago, looked mighty proud to be playing her part in such a rich tradition. As Prince Florimund, her partner Jonathan Cope was the kind of guy who feels slightly ill at ease at parties but manages to look terrific nonetheless, while Zenaida Yanowsky's Lilac Fairy was a little too shy to be really interesting.

But it was the older generation who stole the party. There they were, in a stunning *grand défilé* at the start of Act III, 29 members of the original 1946 cast. Beryl Grey, Margaret Dale, Gillian Lynne, Leslie Edwards, Gerd Larsen, Pamela May and many more: each one handed a bouquet as the audience cheered with delight at remembering their own favourites.

And then the gold-dusted finale, the stage packed with half a century of ballet greatness and in the centre the diminutive figure of the greatest of them all, de Valois, cutting the celebratory cake while the band played *Happy Birthday*. It was one for the history books after all.

DEBRA CRAINE

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■ DESIGN

The memory of architect James Stirling is honoured in a new £20,000 prize for the profession



■ MUSIC 1

In this month of quartets, the Takács take the crown of glory with their Schubert cycle at the Wigmore Hall

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC 2

An enjoyable mix of Ravel, Berlioz and Sibelius, from Sir Simon Rattle and the CBSO



■ RADIO

Astronomers on the air waves? It's the type of programme Radio 4 does particularly well these days

Architecture has a new award, but will it stir up as much interest as the Turner or Booker? **Marcus Binney** reports

And may the best building win . . .



KLAUS FRAHM — GMP

Ian Ritchie's glass-and-steel exhibition hall in Leipzig would surely make him a contender for the prize, if projects outside Britain were eligible

Architects are to have their own version of the Turner Prize. Big money, massive hype and — it is hoped — a deluge of press coverage leading up to the announcement.

The name is good: the Stirling Prize. It has the ring of sound money in your pocket and honours big Jim Stirling, whose star, at his sudden death, stood higher on the international scene than that of even Norman Foster or Richard Rogers. Not so at home perhaps, where his controversial History Library at Cambridge came close to demolition and his experimental housing in Runcorn was bulldozed to the cheers of locals.

But can architecture generate the kind of controversy that fuels the literary world's Booker Prize or the art world's Turner? To achieve this, you would need a shortlist consisting of Nigel Coates, Terry Farrell, Roderick Gradidge, Zaha Hadid, John Outram and Quinlan Terry. Then the British architectural scene would erupt. Lady Stirling, for one, would have strong views on Quinlan Terry ("Not those villas in Regent's Park") and the artful Hadid may still not have a completed building on British soil.

You could say that in recent years British architecture has had more awards than there is space to report: the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Awards, the Royal Fine Art Commission/*Sunday Times* Building of the Year, the Financial Times Award and the Civic Trust Awards. On the international scene architecture has bigger prizes still: the $100,000 American Pritzker Prize, the $250,000 Carlsberg and the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion Award. All these are for "lifetime achievement", although the recipient may be quite young. The appeal of the Stirling Prize is that it is for a single project.

The £20,000 Stirling Prize money may be similar to the Booker and Turner, but the opportunity for tension and drama at present is substantially less. The shortlist will not be chosen from a list of shooting stars, but from seven worthies — the best housing or houses, commercial, health, education, sport and community buildings, as well as the best conservation project — although these are unlikely to win unless there is a substantial element of new work. Laurels are naturally given to the big names, but the RIBA selectors are also good at spotting high-quality work by small practices around the country.

> "The appeal of the Stirling Prize is that it is for a single project"

The Stirling award testifies from *The Sunday Times*, switching allegiance from the Royal Fine Art Commission to RIBA. A back-of-the envelope calculation showed the switch meant that the sponsorship money could go as a single handsome prize to the architect, rather than, being swallowed up in travel expenses, dinners and the like (and there is no need for the Fine Art Commission to despair, as BSkyB has stepped in to fill the gap left by *The Sunday Times*).

The beauty of it is that RIBA does an extensive countrywide trawl for potential candidates through its regional awards. The judges of the new Stirling Prize will be presented with a well-researched shortlist at no cost. And the judges have the right to add their own choices. But will it be controversial? That depends on the judges' propensity to speak out, even resign. Not much chance of that at present, as initially there may be just three: the president of RIBA, a representative of *The Sunday Times*, and one other. On top of this, just a fortnight will elapse between the announcement of the shortlist on November 7 and the award of the prize on November 21.

Stirling's widow feels passionately that the prize should help young, struggling architects. "They have a horrible time at the moment, really awful." She knows, too, the value of prizes to an architect's career. "The Aluminium Prize which Jim received for the engineering department at Leicester University helped us to buy our first house."

A sceptic could say that £20,000 might transform the career of a struggling author but mean little to a Foster, a Rogers or a Hopkins, and not a great deal to many architects after the money has been shared around the office, as in most cases it certainly deserves to be.

Chris Palmer of RIBA hits back: "£22,000 is the average annual earnings of the country's 28,000 practising architects. Kingsley Amis may have spent his Booker Prize money on new curtains and A.S. Byatt on a swimming pool. You won't catch an architect doing that."

The new award goes exclusively to architects but, with many of today's adventurous high-tech buildings, engineers deserve to share the glory. Tony Hunt was the structural engineer for the RIBA Building of the Year in both 1994 and 1995, first for the Waterloo International Terminal and then for the Huddersfield Stadium. Hunt had the initial idea for the glass-and-steel span at Waterloo, and it was he who actually brought the architect, Nicholas Grimshaw, in on the job.

If the reputation of British architecture is flying higher than ever before, it is substantially due to the enormous pool of innovative talent in engineering practices. Ove Arups, founded by the great Sir Ove, the man who made the Sydney Opera House stand up, is the prime example.

Today, Arups has its own publicity machine and produces the best journal in the construction business. The reason is simple. It is widely known that Norman Foster is the architect of Stansted Airport, and that Renzo Piano designed Kansai Airport in Japan. Not many are aware that Arups were the engineers for both these athletic structures.

Chris Wise, an Arup high-flyer, says (only half-jokingly): "Today you will find more people here interested in the arts than science. Computers do the number crunching. To get the best jobs and attract talented people, we have to get recognition for our creative contribution."

At present the Stirling Prize, like the RIBA Awards, is limited to buildings in Britain, but now so many British architects are winning commissions abroad that the net should be extended to take in these buildings. Sir James Stirling's most acclaimed building, after all, was his Stuttgart Art Gallery.

Prime candidates would be Will Alsop's stupendous electric-blue regional government headquarters in Marseilles, completed last year, and Ian Ritchie's new glass-and-steel exhibition hall for the Leipzig Fair.

The key question is, will the Stirling Prize make a difference?

Here RIBA has the best answer. When the Lobb Partnership won the RIBA Building of the Year Award last year, they were anything but a household name. Since then they have rocketed to international stardom by winning the commission for the stadium for the Sydney Olympics in the year 2000.

JAZZ

Fusion for all

ADVANCE publicity for this gig, part of the New Directions in Urban Music Series, promised "a fusion of jazz, funk, soul, hip-hop, dub reggae and drum 'n' bass". The formality of the venue notwithstanding, such an adventurous mix of club sounds was exactly what singer Cleveland Watkiss and associates provided in two hours of loosely structured but hard-hitting music.

Despite a less than ringing introductory endorsement from Biyi Adepegba, the series' instigator — "don't blame me if you don't like it; I'm only the promoter" — drummer Mark Gilmore and electric tabla player Talvin Singh kickstarted the proceedings by producing, from a darkened stage, a pounding rhythm liberally embellished with swirls and howls of electronic sound. Once a groove had been established, Watkiss's vocals began to glide smoothly over it, with saxophonist Steve Williamson contributing everything from subterranean rumbling to scrabbling high-note runs. Effects and samples were provided by DJ La Rouge, and a heavy bass by Oroh Angima.

Cleveland Watkiss
Purcell Room

For the two hour-long sets which followed, Watkiss — the Bobby McFerrin of urban club music — gently presided over an extraordinary *mélange* of sounds and textures, interspersing earnest appeals for universal peace and harmony with bouts of spacy scatting and cosmic crooning, and indulging in the odd virtuosic display of vigorous mouth percussion. But it was Gilmore's scurrying jungle rhythms, occasionally teasingly stumbling and tripping, but never losing their hectic momentum, which held the music together.

The informality and openness of the music, and the consequent lapses into self-indulgence by some participants, did result in the odd *longueur*. At times, too, the band's restless eclecticism shaded into somewhat arbitrary genre-hopping. Nevertheless, for sheer energy and originality it was hard to beat.

CHRIS PARKER

CONCERTS: Chamber with an electric charge; and brilliance with a big sound in Birmingham

Four of a magic kind

In this extraordinary past month of Lindsays and Emersons, Borodin and Bergs, it has been the Takács Quartet who have taken the crown of glory. When they arrived at the Wigmore Hall for the start of their Schubert cycle (it continues on Saturday and returns in November), there was a palpable sense of expectancy in the air. And the quartet's capacity audience was rewarded by playing which at times reached the point where the music seemed to take on a life of its own.

One of these moments — and it was an extended one — was during the Quartet No 15 in G major. From that opening metamorphosis of minor into major to the strange Trio of the Scherzo, it was as if an electric current were being passed from one player to another. The Takács's *tour de force* was the slow movement, an intense and self-contained little *Winterreise* with its sharp splinters of melody, harmonic dislocations, and journeyman's tread.

Before the interval, the Takács had begun with the B-flat and E-flat major Quartets. The Takács leapt at the latter's merriment, creating a veritable farmyard of activity, before the sustained song of the slow movement. Like the first, it showed the players' skill in creating a warm blend of textures within which four individual singing voices are still vividly and wonderfully heard.

The night before, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Alban Berg Quartet of Vienna were celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary. They are only four years older than the Takács, but sound almost twice that. In their venerable and deeply serious playing, the listener can almost feel the players putting themselves through their rigorous pieces, honing their intellects one against another — and especially against the stern leadership of Günter Pichler.

Unlike the Takács, who have a new leader, and the Emersons, who enterprisingly and enrichingly switch first and second violins, the Berg Quartet maintain their hierarchy. There were times, particularly in the slow movement of the Mozart Quartet in D minor, K421, when one longed to hear more of Gerhard Schulz's more warm-hearted second violin, though the sheer sophistication of discourse in the first movement and the rigours of the finale could not but be admired.

Before a brilliantly conceived performance of Mozart's Quartet in G, K387, the Berg Quartet turned to Schnittke and his Fourth Quartet. This was a magisterial and uncompromising performance of a long and concentrated work, its music dragged into being from outer darkness, almost against its will, buffeted this way and that through microtones and distant Slavic chants, only to end in what, for Schnittke and his writing, is a still unanswered question.

HILARY PINCH

A model tribute

CBSO/Rattle
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

When Ravel wrote his *Mother Goose*, between 1908 and 1910, all that was generally known in Europe of oriental music was the pentatonic scale which he uses with such wit in *Little Ugly, Empress of the Pagodas*. The cultures were then so alien to each other that it was inconceivable that anyone brought up in, say, China or Japan would ever be able to write Western music as sophisticated as anyone brought up in Germany or France. That, however, is what was achieved by Toru Takemitsu, who was born in Japan seven years before Ravel died and to whose memory Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra dedicated their performance of *Mother Goose* on the day his death was announced.

Takemitsu, who derived much of his inspiration from modern French music, would have enjoyed it.

The first half of the concert in Symphony Hall was a demonstration model of Berlioz's *Le Corsaire* overture, featuring all the optional extras available to the conductor, and an extraordinary account of Sibelius's *Violin Concerto*. Sarah Chang's performance was remarkable not so much for the technical maturity worthy of a violinist twice the age of 15 as for its interpretative assurance and its physical relationship with the music. It is not often that an audience encounters both youthful freshness and the big sound, the poise and the brilliance normally developed after at least half a lifetime's experience. The occasional expressive exaggeration or uncertainty in ensemble was a welcome indication that she still has something to achieve and is not due for retirement just yet.

GERALD LARNER

Great heavens above

WHEN I was a lad in the newspaper business, I interviewed a woman in flowing robes who spoke like Mystic Meg. Her council house was entirely lit by candles, allegedly because unnatural power interfered with her communication with the planets but actually because she had not paid the electricity bill.

I wrote down her ramblings and returned to the office, to be told by the news editor, "Not astrologers, you idiot, astronomers". Oh I see, though I must say the latter duly appeared to be just as mad as the former.

Starstruck was part of a fascinating Radio 4 series called *Journeys into Space* and this one concerned astronomers not astrologers. But the manic enthusiasm so familiar in Patrick Moore is surely common to both disciplines.

Amateur astronomers are especially interesting because of the symbiotic relationship between the amateur and the professional. Amateurs are to astronomy what lottery money is becoming to the arts: vital ballast that keeps the ship afloat.

Even so, astronomers are easily mocked, what with all that stargazing from back gardens while the real world turns, the bills come in and the guttering falls down. But *Starstruck*, made by Ruth Prince, was an affectionate documentary which happily resisted the ribald. Amateurs such as George Alcock, doyen of the breed at 83, are the full-time eyes of astronomy and their commitment makes a real contribution. Alcock has discovered several novae.

Starstruck is the type of programme Radio 4 does particularly well these days, introducing the variety of voices to the network that Liz Forgan advocated when she became managing director of network radio three years ago.

People misunderstood that desire, thinking that it meant Geordie newsreaders, and there was a predictable clamour from middle England. But the Radio 4 audience is still there and its grumbles have always been part of its charm.

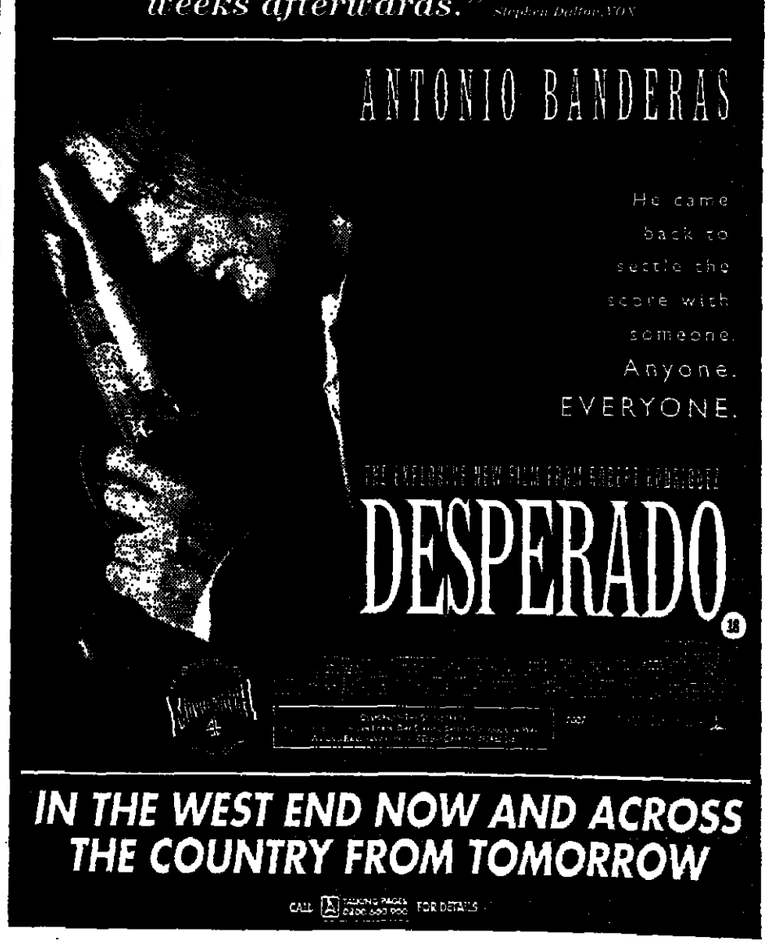
Forgan's influence in making Radio 3 react to the sampler-programming of Classic FM is more debatable, but her role in transforming Radios 2 and 5 has been uncontestably positive.

So in the week of her surprise resignation — not that an astrologer would have been surprised — *Starstruck* was not the only programme, and Radio 4 not the only network, to demonstrate that her legacy is an enriching one.

PETER BARNARD

"★★★★ THE NEAREST THING TO 'PULP FICTION' OR 'RESERVOIR DOGS' WE'RE LIKELY TO GET THIS YEAR." Simon Rose, DAILY MIRROR

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Anatomising a rainbow's colours

Robin Renwick
on securing a future for South Africa



DESMOND BOYLAN/REUTER

Bhambai, a poor township near Durban, April 14, 1994: most South African voters expect the new Government will improve the lives of such children only very gradually

At midnight on February 1, 1990, F. W. De Klerk telephoned me to say that in the speech he would make to the South African Parliament the next day, we would not be disappointed. And neither we, nor the world, were disappointed. For he announced a constitutional revolution, unbanning the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party, leading, nine days later, to the release of Nelson Mandela. In doing so, De Klerk knew that he was paving the way for his own loss of power, though he calculated that in the first fully democratic phase of South African politics, the country would be ruled by a coalition including the National Party.

The epoch-making events that followed are not easily susceptible to being reduced to careful scholarly analysis, though that is what some of the most distinguished commentators on the South African scene — R. W. Johnson, Lawrence Schlemmer, Hermann Giliomee, Mervyn Frost and others — have attempted in this earnest and dispassionate collection of essays. The result is a work that needs to be read by serious students of South African politics, though it will hardly appeal to a wider audience. In the event, the election results could have been predicted intuitively rather than analytically, with the vast majority of black South Africans — the rural Zulus excepted — voting for the ANC, most whites rallying to De Klerk and the coloured population divided between the two.

There is no sign of this racial polarisation diminishing: the pattern is likely to be repeated in the next elections.

The authors analyse exhaustively the attitudes of the various sections of the population to the transition process. That, however, is already history. The last essay, of more compelling interest, addresses public attitudes to the problems facing the new Government and the supposed crisis of expectations. The findings, which are fascinating, will come as less of a surprise to long-term observers of African politics than to commentators who seek to attribute Western political attitudes to township dwellers or the rural population.

Far from expecting miracles from the new Government, these studies suggest African voters expect things to get better only very gradually. The overwhelming priority is employment and there is little enthusiasm for trade union militancy if that means fewer jobs. Re-distributive policies naturally are favoured by the bulk of the African population, but there is an understanding, in theory at least, that nothing can be achieved without economic growth.

This is coupled with an almost total lack of understanding of what actually may be needed to produce economic growth and a near-universal conviction that job creation and the satisfaction of virtually all other needs are the responsibility of government. This gap between a desired culture of entitlement and what government actually can be expected to provide is not so much dangerous as tragic. The South African Communist Party leader, Joe Slovo, spent the last part of his life exhorting township residents to discontinue the rent, mortgage and electricity payment boycotts which were a popular feature of the liberation struggle as, otherwise, no progress could be made towards resolving the housing problem, compounded by the fact that the population is continuing to increase at a rate of nearly one million a year.

If "liberation" is not to become a meaningless slogan for the bulk of the population, these issues have to be tackled. As President Mandela has pointed out, wage-earners in formal employment already are a privileged class in South Africa, and their interests do not coincide with those attempting to gain access to employment. The new Government has been trying to redress this balance, but it will not find this easy to accomplish, as the unions are a powerful part of its constituency. It also is making a courageous effort to re-structure the South African economy, including instituting the partial privatisation of key state enterprises.

This study ends with a warning that "typically, first democratic governments fail". That certainly has been the case in much of the rest of Africa, where their first and most important failure has been in rapidly ceasing to be democratic. "All too frequently new elites attempt to consolidate their wealth and power in ways uncomfortably reminiscent of the *ancien régime* ... A liberal democracy has been born, against all the odds, but it will be many years before this achievement is secure."

In other words, the struggle continues. Can South Africa avoid the fate that has overtaken most of the rest of Africa? I believe it can; but that is still to play for. These studies are marked by painstaking honesty — a quality rare in political commentary anywhere. The authors are to be congratulated for it.

Sir Robin Renwick was Ambassador to South Africa from 1987-91.

LAUNCHING DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH AFRICA
The First Open Election, April 1994
Edited by R. W. Johnson and Lawrence Schlemmer
Yale, £19.95

Servant of the despot stone

Tunku Varadarajan

THE PYRAMID
By Ismail Kadare
Harvill, £14.99

Tyranny was not invented in Stalin's Soviet Union, nor even in Enver Hoxha's fetid Albania, where Ismail Kadare for so long lived and wrote. Tyranny there was even long ago in Egypt, before the pyramids were built.

The Pyramid is Kadare's short new book. It is about Cheops and the distinctive stone structure for which the pharaoh is still famous. His is not a history book, although history clearly cloaks his tale. Fable, parable, storehouse of metaphors, *The Pyramid* is not a simple story. In its blueprint and its architecture, the book itself resembles closely the process of building a pyramid.

At the start it races with ideas and excitement, rather as Kadare describes the time of the conception of the pyramid to have been. Cheops and his fawning advisers envisage a project as useless to his subjects as it would be indispensable to the state. As the High Priest Hemiunu tells Cheops, "a pyramid, before serving the afterworld, has a function in this world".

That function is to enslave an entire population to the geometry of its hubris. Get them to build, to labour, hew stone, lay stone, polish and carve stone — year after year — until "their own bodies and their very fates" are siphoned upwards "by the celestial void".

It takes 22 years to build the pyramid, and the middle of the book shuffles, deliberately, at the stultified pace of a people ground down by hard labour. Kadare's "Chronicles" of the pyramid's construction are chiselled with careful and disconcerting detail: "One hundred and ninety-fifth stone. From El Bersheh quarry. Hoisting delay owing to suicide of head stonelayer Hapidjefa." "The eleven thousand three hundred and ninety-eighth stone, from the Saqqara quarry, caused more or less the same number of deaths and mutilations as the previous stone."

As the pyramid rises, and deaths multiply, Cheops grows despondent. Why else was the monument being built but to receive, and mark, his death? Whereas he had had men first regularly punished on charges of delaying the building work, he now had them sentenced to death "for the opposite reason, because they had speeded the work up. Then again for the first reason. And thereafter for no reason at all."

But after the hecatomb, the tomb will not be denied its moment. The pyramid, which struck Egypt down for 22 years, now "demands its mummy". Cheops dies, his heart hollowed-out by self-pity, and the book enters its last phase.

Climax and anti-climax cancel each other out at the pharaoh's death. There is instead a stillness, a void in which no questions are asked. Then suddenly, there is a crumbling of history. Grave-robbers, necessary nihilists in the "post-pyramidal" epoch, profane a series of smaller royal tombs. Cheops's pyramid alone stands untouched and unrobbed, a mocking monument that outlasts those who question its "unchanging lordship". And, Kadare asks, does not the pyramid mock us still today?

Smoke and water

Michael Hofmann

GHOST TRAIN
By Sean O'Brien
OUP, £6.99

SWIMMING IN THE FLOOD
By John Burnside
Cape, £7

A poem in Sean O'Brien's previous book begins: "You are trying to work but you sit/ With the wrong book entirely: Lost Railways of England./ Whose dust of the forties, the fifties,/ Is making you sneeze." The subject is back to haunt him in *Ghost Train*, a strikingly unified and successful book of poems that — deservingly — won him the Forward Prize in 1995.

Trains provide O'Brien with an observation platform for the condition of the country: a jaunty and rackety three-syllable metrical unit that becomes as hypnotic as rails; an endless supply of phrases and metaphors; an atmosphere of mischievous nostalgia; a panoramic outlook that seems to lead, invariably, to the vanishing-point where everything goes up in smoke.

It isn't a literal journey that O'Brien takes you on, it is synthetic and arranged and quite possibly — ghost train — not happening at all. Repeatedly harking back to the 1940s and 1950s, O'Brien produces a version of the country as *trompe l'oeil*. Details fly past, solid-seeming, but concatenated into twists of impossibility, as chimeric as the writing which describes itself as "poetry that steps outside the book".

O'Brien's conception is so original that he is really only minimally indebted to other poets here. However, I would offer England's unlikeliest metaphysician, Hugo Williams; occasional traces of the robuster Tony Harrison; and possibly something smoother and more sinuous, like the American poet Richard Wilbur's long poem *Walking to Sleep*. More important than any of these is the work of the late Dennis Potter, with its phantasmagoric shuttling between past and present, its rain and songs and wistfulness and air of fey pursuit.

Ghost Train is as impressive a book as I have read in years, idiosyncratic, beautiful and shrewd. For a similarly compact and distinctive statement, I think I would have to go back to *Why Brownlee Left* (1981) by Paul Muldoon or *Katerina Brac* (1985) by Christopher Reid. It is a book that will tell future generations about us, and marks Sean O'Brien's arrival as an important poet.

Similar claims have been made for John Burnside, like O'Brien a poet in his early forties, but on the basis of *Swimming in the Flood*, already his fifth book, I wouldn't support them. Burnside too offers an idea of a book of poems as something unified: water, death and rebirth are his themes here, but it is less interesting, less innovative and much less well-written.

So many of the poems here follow the same blueprint that it is tempting to try to describe the blueprint. A theme is announced, and then the poem rushes to bury itself in a list; a second theme is introduced, with further listing; a final section brings the two into some relation. Burnside at least is not a murky poet but the clarity in which he operates leaves him dreadfully exposed. Clarity is good if you have something else to offer, like thought or originality. Burnside is actually a verbal type of poet, only he is thin, uncompelling and not particularly good.

In *Swimming in the Flood*, Burnside is interested in frightening and disgusting the reader, with poems about murdered girls and so forth. There is a kind of pornographic chill in these poems that I find wholly exceptionable. Just as exceptionable in its way is the predictable upward curve of redemption at the end of the book, "the hard bud splitting through ice/ and the nailed palm healing".

Defined by the absence of peace

Roy Foster

A MILITARY HISTORY OF IRELAND
Edited by Thomas Bartlett and Keith Jeffery
Cambridge University Press, £40

"Militarism," observes a contributor to this fine collection of essays, "was one of the few Irish stereotypes which evoked almost universal approbation" in the early 1900s; this holds good throughout much of Irish history. Natural bellicosity has been claimed as a characteristic of Irish fighters from mythical heroes to the IRA past and present. Generally this is assumed to be an attribute of distinction.

Leaving this knotty question aside, this propensity is certainly allied to a society and a history which is generally supposed to have seen more than its fair share of violence. Colonisation and government by an unrepresentative elite necessitated a military presence; in 1795 Burke scoffed at high-falutin' talk about the Irish constitution, pointing out that it consisted of the three orders of "cavalry, infantry and artillery".

However, militarism was built into the structure of Gaelic society before Norman adventurism arrived; Irish society in the plantation era was characterised by the mustering of militias on one side, and hillside guerrilla activity on the other. In the 1640s, four separate armies ravaged the island; subsequently *émigré* Irish soldiers rose to fame all over the world. The 18th century saw the development of an army establishment (shown here by Alan Guy as impressively ramshackle) which would throughout the subsequent era be invoked in aid of the civil power. Finally, the last decades of the Union saw private armies north and south, guerrilla campaigns, military reprisals and civil war: the fighting Irish indeed.

But there is more to military tradition than simply constant war (or "the absence of peace", as the editors delicately put it): the intimate relationship between the British Army and its disproportionately large content of Irishmen; the influence of garrison life on domestic Irish social culture; the complex tensions between militia and yeomanry forces, and the communities from whom they were raised; the enormous importance for modern Irish history of the First World War; and the surprising fact that for most of the 18th and 19th centuries, all this military preoccupation was being exercised on behalf of a country which remained, for the most part, extremely peaceable.

All these issues find treatment in this rich collection by diverse hands. There are inevitably lacunae, and the chapters are varied in length and depth of treatment — but not in quality, which is consistently high. Above all, the approach takes military history away from the obsessive trainspotting tendency too often associated with it, and into social history.

Katharine Simms, in a marvellous survey of Gaelic warfare in the Middle Ages, urbanely reconstructs the "traditional quasi-berserker hairstyle affected by those whose lives were dedicated to rapine and murder" and relates it to 13th-century dresscodes. Edward Spiers traces the importance of Irishmen in the Victorian army not only through statistics, but in terms of psychology and mentality. David Fitzpatrick finds a former Chief of Staff of the Irish Army in the 1950s who owes his training to the Royal Engineers as well as to an IRA flying column, and remarks that Ireland had been "terribly foolish not to take Home Rule when it was offered to us".

The book's sweep extends from the early medieval period, authoritatively surveyed by Thomas Charles-Edwards, and proceeds through a detailed consideration of military and other matters in the plantation era by Ciaran Brady and others; several long chapters deal with the 18th century, while the 19th receives two long thematic surveys on army organisation by Spiers, and law and order by Virginia Crossman.

The 20th century, surprisingly, is dealt with in three short chapters, including one where Fitzpatrick has to accommodate not only the paramilitary frenzy of the period before 1916, but the war of independence. It is a surprise not to find a chapter devoted solely to the latter, and another on the civil war (the authorities on these subjects, Charles Townsend and Michael Hopkinson, are in fact notable by their absence). And military matters in Northern Ireland are kept for a few pages of the final chapter.

Some essays, such as Bartlett's masterly study of repression and rebellion in the 1790s, are necessarily cast in narrative form; others opt for thematic treatments (David Miller resourcefully converts "Non-professional Soldiers, c 1600-1800" into a challenging discussion of the origins of nationalism). That old chestnut, Maud Gonne's claim that her campaign against the Boer War halted recruitment (obediently accepted by her biographers) is just one cliché drily deflated by statistics.

Miller, in similar vein, presents us with the real duties of those Volunteer corps raised in the 1770s and presented in textbooks as the proto-nationalist harbingers of parliamentary independence: much more typically they repressed agrarian agitators, guarded shipwrecks, enforced laws against trade combinations, protected soldiers from mob violence, and confiscated arms. It may not be magnificent, but it seems much nearer to real life.

The editors deserve a 21-gun salute: not only for exemplary scholarship, accessibility and accuracy, imaginative illustrations and quizzical introduction, but for the impartial generosity with which they approach the tangled ambiguities of the subject. It is best epitomised by the dedication: to four Irishmen, their own forebears, who 80-odd years ago were serving variously in the Royal Garrison Artillery, the Belfast IRA, the Durham Light Infantry and the Canadian Machine Gun Corps. This makes its point no less profoundly for its lack of fanfare; and the same is true for the book as a whole.


G. A. DUNCAN

A statue of Queen Victoria removed from Dublin, 1946

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF CINEMA WITH A FREE TICKET TO SEE ANY FILM AT ONE OF 250 UCI SCREENS



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THE TIMES UCI CINEMAS TOKEN 4

Tom Bower on Nick Leeson's financial exploits; WH Smith Fresh Talent 1996 — new novels, new authors; Lynne Truss delights in a biography of Mike Leigh, cinematic iconoclast; plus children's books and paperbacks

Roger Scruton on Conor Cruise O'Brien, an apostle of the Enlightenment whose latest work reveals the uncertainty of his beliefs

Yes, the best do lack conviction

ON THE EVE OF THE MILLENNIUM
By Conor Cruise O'Brien
Free Press, £7.99

Conor Cruise O'Brien's reflections on the millennium, here collected in a short book, were first delivered as lectures in distant outposts of the civilisation which measures its millennia from the birth of Christ.

Like many of O'Brien's recent writings, they display a deep uncertainty. He wishes to offer a passionate defence of the Enlightenment and its liberal values; but is aware that one of the first political gifts of the Enlightenment was the terrorism of the French Revolution, and that this terrorism has a nasty habit of reappearing whenever the Enlightenment vision of man, as the creator of his own destiny, seizes the political imagination.

He wishes to be the elder statesman, standing above day-to-day politics and seeing only what is permanent in the human condition. But he cannot forgo his exasperation at this or that event in the morning's newspaper — especially when it concerns the Pope, the Republican Party or US foreign policy, towards all of which he maintains an attitude of patrician disdain. He has serious doubts about the future of institutions — about democracy, which encourages the short-term view, about monarchy, which falls victim to the gutter press, and about the media, which are rapidly sinking to the moral and intellectual level of their lowest customers.

But he seems to have no clear idea of how we might improve our inherited ways of governing ourselves. This apostle of the Enlightenment begins by quoting and endorsing Yeats's *Second Coming*, and ends (more or less) with a penetrating encomium of Edmund Burke. Since he finds no one to admire very much besides these two great Irishmen, it is surely hard to resist the conclusion that he secretly agrees with the thing they stood for — which is the repudiation of the Enlightenment view of man.

Indeed, there are two ways of reading O'Brien: first as a progressive and slightly cynical liberal, who laments the fact that the ignorant and the superstitious gain power; secondly, as a melancholy conservative, who knows that the hopes vested in human nature by liberals are largely futile, and that people need order, tradition and religion far more than they need a choice of lifestyle.

I find the second O'Brien more appealing, partly because he is, in this character, hesitant, circumspect, and aware of the complexity of the matters about which he writes. The first O'Brien has a tendency to jump to conclusions — sometimes rather crazy conclusions, as in the first essay in the book, which informs the reader of a massive worldwide counter-Enlightenment plot, with the Pope scheming to form an alliance between Christendom and militant Islam against people like O'Brien. (The only piece of concrete evidence that is cited for this extraordinary idea is a reported announcement on Libyan radio, which is apparently privy to Vatican thinking in the matter.)


O'Brien: scourge of political correctness

The second O'Brien is apparent in an essay on the Millennium Commission, the quango which empowers a body of people wholly unqualified for any such task, to propel our country into the next thousand years. His scorn for this idea prompts him to ask why no churchman or religious leader sits on the commission, when the millennium has little meaning apart from that provided by the Christian calendar.

In this and other essays O'Brien notes how hollow such public statements and ceremonies are, when voided of their religious content. But this does not prevent the first O'Brien from scoffing at the "prayer breakfasts" of American presidents, having himself been invited to one, and being impatient to share with his reader the snobbish amusement that liberals tend to feel on such occasions.

Perhaps the most useful passages in the book are those in which the second, conservative, O'Brien addresses the question of America. As he rightly says, the United States is "the only country commited to the Enlightenment tradition *emotionally as well as intellectually*. That tradition is part and parcel of the American civil religion". While attempting to debunk Jefferson, one of the first high priests of this civil religion, O'Brien recognizes that the American belief in constitutional government provides a powerful bulwark against social decay. He castigates "political correctness" as an attempt to reject not only the American civil religion, but also the Western culture from which it springs. And he warns us that, without respect for tradition, order and the higher life, democracy will be deprived of the correctives that will enable it to survive.

All that is true. Of course, it has been said before — by Burke, to whom O'Brien refers, and by Tocqueville, but maybe it is worth saying again in the brisk, impatient prose that O'Brien seems to favour. There is no denying, however, that, although O'Brien is fishing in deep waters, he trawls a great amount of flotsam.

Those who weight their nets with the heavier products of German philosophy will have an explanation for this; but even they will find it difficult to understand how an intelligent, cultivated and sophisticated statesman should spend quite so much energy in vilifying Pope John Paul II, whose only crime seems to be that he actually believes what the Church has always preached concerning birth control. Even an enlightened liberal ought to concede that the elevation of such a person to the throne of St Peter might serve a useful purpose, at a time when no spiritual force comparable to the Roman Catholic religion stood against communism.

And you do not have to agree with the Pope's views on birth control in order to recognize the social catastrophe that is threatened when sex is divorced entirely from the conception and care of children. I mention these problems partly because, in my view, you cannot really understand the modern world if you do not explore the moral reality of communist collectivism on the one hand, and sexual liberation on the other. These two forces have shaped the modern consciousness, and left a legacy of spiritual emptiness which O'Brien senses, but for which he has no words.

On a slow train through China

James Pringle

REAL CHINA
From Cannibalism To Karaoke
By John Gittings
Simon & Schuster, £15.99

Just another mundane day in China, and five people are executed by firing squad. Counterfeiters, and including two Taiwanese, they are shot in the back of the head. Another report says that new buildings around the busy airport on Hainan Island are so tall they are a hazard to aircraft, so night flights have been suspended. One construction is 175 feet higher than safety regulations permit: perhaps the police or army have a financial interest, so it is difficult to have it demolished. These are just two random items from a newspaper on a recent typical day.

China now is a confused mix of chaos and control, puritanism and decadence, savage punishment and the turning of a blind eye to corruption; it all depends on your *guanxi* or "connections". It is also a time of uneasy transition between generational leaders, when new questions are being put about the country's direction. It is difficult to find answers to the problems of almost one quarter of the planet's population, difficult even to know the questions to ask. John Gittings's book does not provide the answers but at least it poses the proper questions.


Relief image of a Buddhist "world guardian" at the entrance to a cave in Longmen, China (c AD 700); from *The Arts of China to AD 900* by William Watson (Yale, £50)

On extended trips on the Yangtze River last year, to report on the controversial Three Gorges Dam project, a huge hydroelectric scheme that will displace more than a million people, this reviewer found Chinese on river boats ready to talk about their worries freely, confident there were few snoopers around. The contrast with Peking, where people generally keep their own counsel, was startling. A member of the editorial board of *The Guardian*, Gittings likes to do his talking on trains for, as he says: "Fellow passengers discuss their own affairs and reflect on China's future with a candour they would normally avoid."

In his efforts to find out where China is heading, Gittings explores the villages and towns of what he calls Middle China, and takes the reader on a north-south procession through the provinces of Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Guanxi, Guangdong and free-wheeling Hainan using the little-known Second North-South Railway Trunk Line. Wisely, Gittings avoids Peking, not just because of harsh memories of what he saw at Tiananmen Square when he reported the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrators in June, 1989, but because, he says, Peking no longer seems relevant to the questions about China which need to be asked.

Residents believe there would be another reason for skirting Peking. With the clampdown on any kind of political opening since 1989, diplomats, academics and correspondents there know even less about the happenings within the leadership than they did in the 1970s, when top figures could be interviewed, and the mid-1980s, when relative liberals such as the late party chief Hu Yaobang and his disgraced successor Zhao Ziyang were in the ascendancy. Chinese these days are equally in the dark. As Gittings remarks: "Most Chinese are far better informed about the state of British football than that of their own politics."

Encouragingly, he does find, however, a small core of critical intelligentsia, particularly among some younger journalists, social scientists and members of the new legal profession. "But they still have to operate," he says, "within a system which is not only dominated, as before, by the Party bureaucracy but which has been enriched by the economic reforms and is now closely meshed with the expanding entrepreneurial interests of the armed forces." Not much scope, one fears, for too much new thinking emerging among these handicaps.

Gittings has the reporter's own inflated sense of his photographic skills; the cover picture, which he shot himself, is insipid, hardly reflecting the vibrant sense of China today. His volume is part travel book on the byways of central China, part social investigation. Sometimes it is slightly dated. But especially evocative is his chilling visit to the town of Wuxuan in Guangxi to investigate "an obscure footnote to the Cultural Revolution", the reports of cannibalism, a subject that makes Chinese officials even now cringe, then angrily recoil. But Gittings finds it surprisingly easy to confirm, and this is the most detailed account this reviewer has seen of these horrific events. His final chapter, "Where is China headed?" contains much thoughtful political analysis on what may lie ahead in the millennium.

The bottom line, however, is that no one knows where China is heading beyond the death of the now enfeebled senior leader Deng Xiaoping — not even Jiang Zemin, the current party boss who projects himself as the "core" of the new leadership. Gittings does not pretend to enlighten us on this, but, on his endless train journeys, he has obviously thought long about it, and his book is a vital description of the heartland of China — and how what may emerge from there could affect us all — on the very eve of the millennium.

Fear with a Southern accent

Stephanie Merritt

OMNIPHOBIA
By R. H. W. Dillard
Louisiana State University Press, £21.95

NINETIES nihilism and *fin-de-siècle* angst are commonplace themes for writers these days. Yet, standing out in sharp relief from this vast array of pessimistic fiction is *Omniphobia*, R. H. W. Dillard's recent collection of short stories.

Dillard, professor of English at Hollins College, Virginia, is above all a craftsman of language. His rich, highly-wrought prose draws the reader into a grotesque caricature of modern society that is at once absurdly exaggerated and frighteningly recognisable; as the title suggests, the theme of fear permeates the three novellas and four stories in diverse and imaginative manifestations.

The first novella, *The Bog*, consists of the notebook scribblings of Dr Cosmo Cotswaldo, a professor of philosophy determined to refute Darwinian theories by proving that he can control the world through his will. Unfortunately, his mental exertions are distracted by the arrival of Sara Band, the only female scholar at his remote research institute, and an aggressive feminist with a voracious sexual appetite. Cosmo's unwilling fixation with Sara, and his efforts to gain control not only over his experiments but also over the forces of sexual desire are at first hilarious, but as both his work and his mind gradually disintegrate, fear creeps insidiously into the tale.

THE BOG juxtaposes a display of wide-ranging academic scholarship with an incisive observation of everyday detail; a contrast which resurfaces in the other stories. It emphasises the gulf between our intellectual potential and our animal appetites; a theme which evidently fascinates Dillard and is explored more fully in *The Death Eater*. This breathless, stream-of-consciousness narrative is the internal monologue of a diner chef who is both obsessed and repulsed by the sight of his obese customers devouring their greasy food. His disgust eventually provokes a chilling reaction.

The second section of the book is a parody of the literature of the American South, and the culture which produced it. Dillard evokes a vivid and palpable sense of place in his cinematic attention to detail; themes traditional in the literature of the South, particularly of racial prejudice, are reinvented with a modern, ironic twist. But the fears of death, sex and madness, and the sense of emptiness and futility familiar to these stories, are only just beneath the surface.

Not all the stories are of a consistent quality. The disjointed narrative of *The Butterfat Boy* is confusing and its characters unidentifiable; *Their Wedding Journey* is an attempt to introduce an element of the supernatural that is both unconvincing and incongruous with the rest of the collection.

But the final eponymous novella draws together the preoccupations of all the preceding stories in its four, interwoven voices. Dillard, who has previously published five volumes of poetry, uses the lyrics of a punk singer as a vehicle for his poetic talent; the songs acknowledge the nihilistic spirit that has been latent throughout the book, and is increasingly identified as the prevalent *Zeitgeist* of our society.

Omniphobia is not a cheerful book, but it is immensely funny, provocative and ultimately optimistic. Beneath all its hyperbole and apocalyptic vision is a deeply affectionate portrayal of what it means to be human — Dillard recognises an inherent determination and courage as well as fears and fragility.


Lone ranger: *Untitled Film Still 48*, photographed by Cindy Sherman, 1979, from *Face Values — American Portraits* by Donna De Salvo (Flammarian, £20)

A mutual liking for war

Richard Owen

ISLAM AND THE MYTH OF CONFRONTATION
By Fred Halliday
IB Tauris, £35

Is there an Islamic threat to the West? Fred Halliday thinks not. He does not underestimate the danger from bombs on the Paris Metro or Islamic terrorists plotting in London. But he takes issue with Samuel Huntington, who in a celebrated article in *Foreign Affairs* in 1993 predicted that the end of the Cold War confrontation between capitalism and communism would be followed by further "clashes of civilisations", notably between the West and Islam.

Halliday argues in this lucid and challenging riposte that violent acts committed against Western — or any other — targets have their roots in the social and economic conditions of particular Third World countries, rather than in some vaguely menacing concept labelled "Islam". In other words, if Algerian extremists bring the Algerian civil war to the streets of European cities, we should look for the causes in Algerian history and politics rather than in the Koran.

Halliday rejects the "common assumption" that the Middle East is in some sense unique. Islam, he suggests, is not a monolithic unit but a religion espousing "clear doctrines, a system of belief about the supernatural, and related questions of morality, destiny and meaning". Most issues and conflicts thought of as peculiar to the Middle East — oil prices, nuclear weapons, territorial disputes — are at heart secular and have nothing to do with the fact that the majority of the region's inhabitants are Muslim.

This is well put, and obviously true, as far as it goes. It is clearly false to suppose that the Islamic world forms a monolith: the Gulf War showed us that the Muslim world is at odds with itself. Most Arabs, for example, found Saddam Hussein's attempts to pose as a champion of Islam laughable. There are many Christian Arabs: the Lebanese conflict had its roots in ethnic rivalry, and the Iran-Iraq war had very specific economic and territorial origins.

There is not even a universal definition of what we mean by the Middle East. Broadly speaking it means the Arab nations plus Israel, Iran and perhaps Turkey, but there is room for argument. Nor is Islam confined to the Middle East; on the contrary, it embraces much of Asia and the Far East.

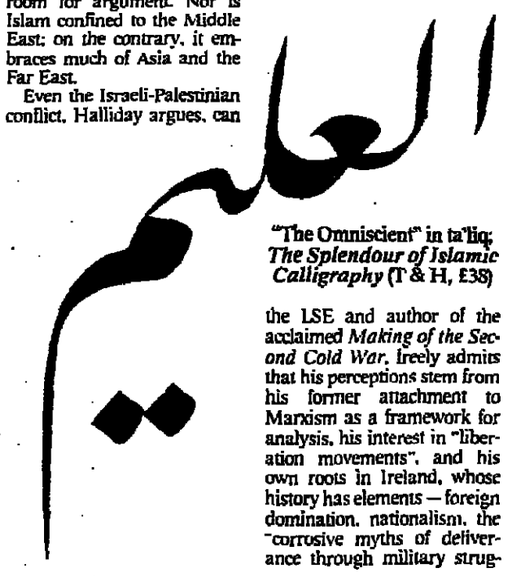
Even the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Halliday argues, can be seen as a typical Third World product of colonialism, which affected "every country on the southern Mediterranean shore". Elsewhere he writes: "The Middle East is not unique, except possibly in the content of the myths that are propagated about it, from within and without."

But here the polemic goes too far. Halliday himself acknowledges that Zionism was — and is — a "unique factor" in the Palestine equation. The explosive mixture of religious fanaticism, nationalism and willingness to shed blood for land is not unique to the Holy Land, but it is qualitatively different there. Palestine is not just another Third World problem; the myths of the Middle East exist because the Middle East believes them about itself.

Halliday, who is Professor of International Relations at the LSE and author of the acclaimed *Making of the Second Cold War*, freely admits that his perceptions stem from his former attachment to Marxism as a framework for analysis, his interest in "liberation movements", and his own roots in Ireland, whose history has elements — foreign domination, nationalism, the "corrosive myths of deliverance through military struggle" — which find echoes in the Third World. This approach perhaps leads him to underestimate the extent to which leaders in "the Muslim world" see themselves as ranged against a hostile and uncomprehending West bent on undermining Islamic values.

Radical Islamic philosophers such as al Turabi in Sudan or al Madani in Algeria would disagree with his contention that there are "no special nations, no eternal missions". The concept of the "Arab nation" is still strong, and draws on the desire of ordinary Arabs to believe that they are indeed "special". The idea of a coming confrontation between Islam and the West is promoted as much in the Muslim world as in the West, perhaps more so.

Towards the end of this perceptive study Halliday offers a dissection of "Orientalism", the notion — popularised by Edward Said, among others — that the West has, through colonial nostalgia and the arts, created an "Orient" which only exists in the Western imagination. As Halliday points out, the Middle East is on Europe's doorstep, and has impinged on the Western consciousness ever since the Crusades. On the other hand, he is surely right to add that Islamic propagandists are also prone to myth making and self-delusion, and "the combined strength of the Islamic world is far less than that of the West" — always assuming the Islamic nations could sink their differences long enough to combine, which is highly unlikely. The only safe prediction, pace Huntington, is that Islam — however defined — is likely to fascinate the Western mind for some time to come.


"The Omniscient" in ta'liq; *The Splendour of Islamic Calligraphy* (T & H, £38)

هكذا من الاصل

Cut-price tickets to revolution

BUSINESS travellers and holidaymakers should thank IATA — the cosy "club" of the world's airlines — for Resolution 814PP.

Arcane and esoteric though it may sound, Resolution 814PP could soon transform the way Europe travels, lead to lower fares and destroy the protectionist walls created by many European airlines.

When it comes into force on May 1, 814PP — "European Union Satellite Ticket Printer Locations" — will enable big agencies such as Carlson Wagonlit and American Express to organise travel for companies from a central location and then print tickets in the customers' own offices.



The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Until now, business travel agencies have had to set up a separate ticket printing operation in each country, with obvious financial disadvantages.

Airlines have been worried that new EU legislation on this type of operation might be written to their disadvantage. So they decided to act first and show that they were ahead of the game and there was no need for Brussels to become involved.

To protect its member airlines, however, IATA has tried to build subtleties into 814PP to make it difficult for agents to use the new agreement to the maximum benefit of customers.

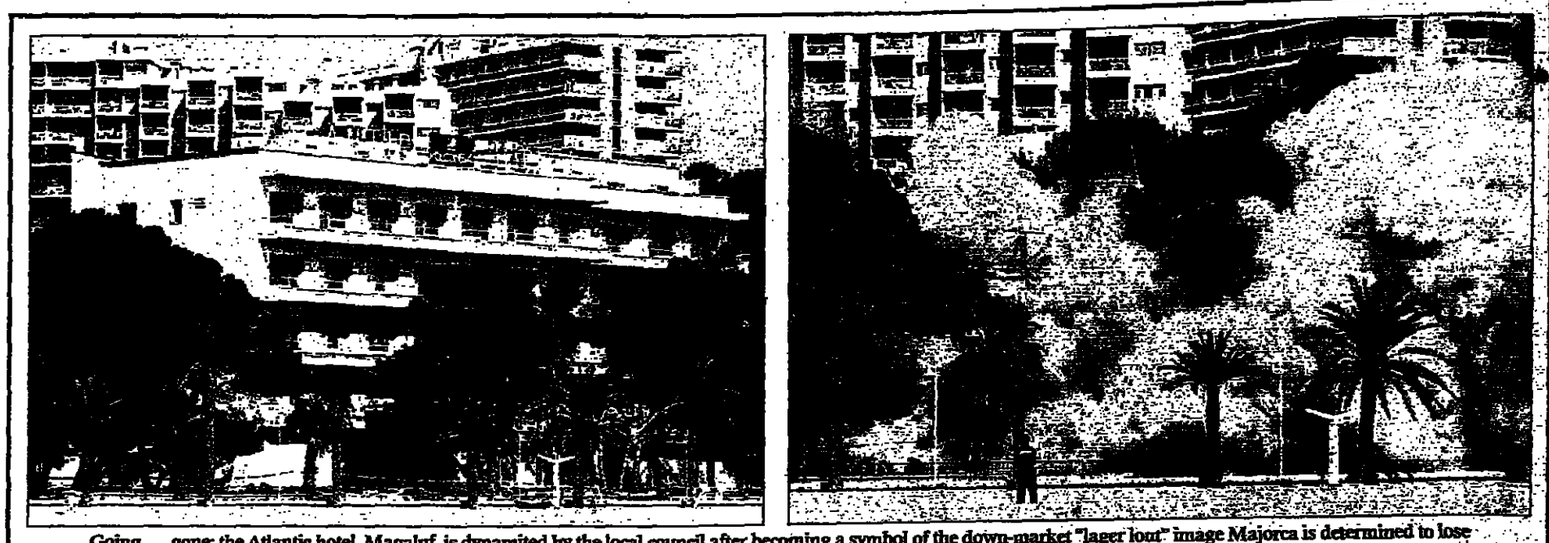
Each journey, for example, must start in the country where the ticket was finally printed; travel agents cannot use a central reservations system showing which fares are available throughout the whole of Europe; and a whole range of other minor measures amounting to protection of high-cost airlines has been woven into the agreement.

The airlines fear that they could lose custom if business travellers and their agents were to use their computers to find the cheapest possible fares and then buy them with the "cheapest" currency.

Already, the sophisticated multinational agencies are finding ways of overcoming the obstacles. They can, for example, send electronic messages to their branches asking them to look into their own national databases to find the cheapest fare.

If they succeed in beating the protective measures — and with the strides being made by technology, that seems inevitable — it cannot be long before holidaymakers, too, are able to choose the best possible place within Europe to buy their holidays.

If, say, a German tour operator has a special offer to Greece, why should a Briton not be able to buy it? If a Dane can buy a flight from Copenhagen to Portugal cheaper in Rome than Copenhagen, why should he not take advantage? And why, in the true spirit of the Community, should a Frenchman not be able to buy a Majorcan package holiday in London?



Going . . . gone: the Atlantic hotel, Magaluf, is dynamited by the local council after becoming a symbol of the down-market "lager lout" image Majorca is determined to lose

Explosive message for lager louts

HOTEL ATLANTIC — the first hotel built specifically to cater for mass tourism on Majorca — was reduced to rubble last week as part of a £73 million campaign to rid the island of its lingering "lager lout" reputation. *Harvey Elliott writes.*

The hotel was built on the seafront at Magaluf in 1959, as the package holiday bonanza began. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s it became a haven for superstars and package holidaymakers making their first visit to a Mediterranean resort.

Gradually, its concrete and glass façade faded, the mass tourism which it represented became less and less attractive and eventually it appealed only to groups of rowdy youths or pensioners.

Six years ago, the hotel was forced to close and was bought by the local Calvia council, which is strenuously pursuing a policy of attracting "better quality" family tourists.

The Atlantic is one of 20 hotels along the southern coast of Majorca which will be demolished over the next eight years in a series of explosions designed to get across the message to both British and German tourists — on whom the island relies for almost 90 per cent of its summer visitors — that louts are no longer tolerated and that space, style and quality are now of prime importance.

"Everything we blow up will be turned into a green area, such as a park or a public space," said the local tourism councillor, Angel Garcia. "We have to have new dreams instead of old and we realise that we must renew — or die."

High price of Moscow nights

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

HOTEL prices in Russia are among the most expensive in the world for business travellers, with other eastern European countries, including the Czech republic, also very expensive.

The average price of a business-class hotel room per night in Russia last year was £150.76, more than the £140.03 charged in Hong Kong and the £114.73 rate in the Czech republic.

The figures, compiled by the Hogg Robinson travel agency, show that hotels in almost 90 per cent of the 27 countries surveyed were able to push up their prices last year. "Because of the general upturn in business travel worldwide, there has been a much greater demand for rooms," says Mr Mike Gates, a Hogg Robinson director.

Russia's inclusion in the league table for the first time has highlighted the high cost of doing business behind the former Iron Curtain. Moscow hotels charged an average of £153.24 per night, while those in St Petersburg asked £142.02. Even so, Tokyo remained the costliest city in the world, with an average room rate of £159.58. Behind these two came Osaka, Hong Kong, Zurich, and then St Petersburg.

London ranked 43rd out of the 84 cities covered, compared with 39th position in 1994. The average room rate was £86.02, a rise of 7 per cent on the previous year. Paris was 16th, down from ninth place, with a rate of £117.15.

Mr Gates warned that the impact of the weak pound was hurting British business travellers abroad. "In some European countries, particularly Sweden, Spain and Switzerland, dramatic changes in the rate of exchange have meant that artificially high room rates are now being paid by UK travellers — in some cases putting more than 10 per cent on the bill."

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Travel stress brings boom to health clubs

By Harvey Elliott

A RAPID growth in business travel has provided a lucrative spin-off for health farms as companies try to prevent hard-working executives from suffering travel-related stress.

Health clubs are fully booked throughout the spring and discounts and special deals have been almost eliminated.

Gillie Turner, group marketing manager for the Champneys group of health resorts, said: "During the recession, executives lost many of their extra benefits as companies cut back. Now they are being restored as industry realises that the health of their executives is vital.

"They also seem to have decided that it is no good sending someone to Spain as an incentive or reward because they will simply eat too much and flop on to a beach. Instead, they want executives to become fitter so that they can do even more for the company in the future."

Now Champneys, acknowledged as the market leader, is planning to introduce a special "Profiting from Stress" course costing £1,200 per person for a three-day break. Executives will be given massages and health treatments, workouts and a range of talks on how to combat stress, especially when travelling. Other health resorts are introducing similar schemes.

"Because of the cuts made during the recession, most business travellers find that they are having to do the work which two people did even a year ago," said Jonathan Stapleton, general manager of Champneys. "Companies have, therefore, decided it is worthwhile paying for their senior executives to take a proper break and get advice on how to combat stress."

Clare Brandish, the sales and marketing director of Ragdale health spa in Leicestershire, and an official of the ten-member Federation of British Health Farms, said that the number of professionals going to health resorts has increased sharply.

"Whereas a few years ago it was mainly housewives wanting to come to slim, it is now working women with their own businesses who feel the need to de-stress. All our members agree to a policy of no children, no mobile phones, and no conferences."

It has been calculated that about 40 million working days are lost each year because of stress, ten times as many as are lost to industrial disputes. Much of the problem is caused by long periods away from home, irregular hours, business entertaining and jetlag.

According to the Guild of Business Travel Agents, sales of business-class airline tickets have risen by 12 per cent in the past year, hotel bookings have gone up by 36 per cent and car hire has risen by 24 per cent.

"The trouble is that the same number of people are being asked to travel more often," said David Reynolds, the GBTA chief executive. "No wonder they need to take a break in a health spa."

US tourists defy IRA to visit Britain

By Harvey Elliott

AMERICAN visitors are ignoring the threat of IRA bombs in London and booking holidays to Britain in record numbers.

Despite fears that the recent spate of terrorist bombs would put off notoriously fickle American travellers from coming to Britain this year, inbound tour operators and tourism officials in the United States have handled more inquiries than ever, and they report that only a tiny minority of potential visitors has mentioned the bombings.

On Tuesday, the first full working day since the Aldwych bus explosion, the British Tourist Authority in New York handled 1,521 telephone calls from potential visitors.

"This compared with 1,269 who rang on the Friday before the first bomb at Canary Wharf," said Jeff Hamblin, the BTA's general manager in America. "Only 25 callers on Wednesday referred to the safety aspects of making the journey and nobody actually cancelled.

"A small number of big tour groups have decided to change their itineraries and stay in the countryside rather than in the centre of London, but again none has cancelled," he said.

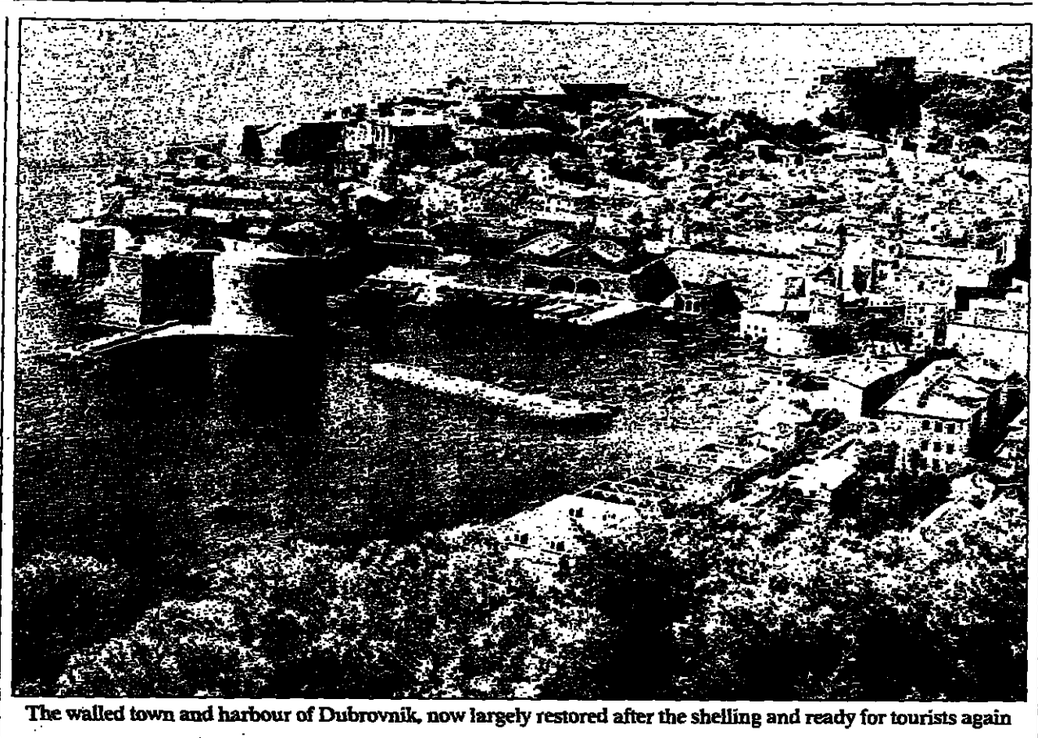
In the week between the Docklands outrage and the Aldwych bus bomb the BTA office handled a record number of 8,500 calls for information, of which only six made reference to security. So far, February is proving a record month with 29,688 Americans ringing the BTA office for information during the first two weeks of the month, compared with 50,307 during the whole of February 1995.

Neither British Airways nor American Airlines has had more than "a handful" of cancellations as a result of the bombs. Richard Tobias of the British Incoming Tour Operators Association said that, despite some reports to the contrary, there was "no evidence" of a down-turn in either arrivals or bookings.

"I have checked and re-checked all our members and as a result I am much more comfortable than I originally feared. We have 24 million people from all over the world who will visit Britain in 1996 and I doubt if more than 500 have cancelled."

Adele Biss, chairman of the BTA, said that she was "saddened and depressed" by the bombs but could find no evidence of mass cancellations. "I am afraid there has been a knee-jerk reaction in some places where people have assumed that tourists will cancel and will not accept the evidence to the contrary," she said.

"But we are continuing to tell the world the many good reasons there are to come to Britain, and I have no reason to doubt that 1996 will be another record year."



The walled town and harbour of Dubrovnik, now largely restored after the shelling and ready for tourists again

Welcome to Croatia

By Alan Hamilton

WITH THE fragile Balkan peace apparently holding after last weekend's knocking together of heads in Rome, tour operators are taking the first tentative steps to rebuild the region's holiday industry, virtually destroyed by more than four years of war.

This summer, for the first time since 1991, a charter operator is offering packages from Britain to Dubrovnik, the magnificent walled town known as the pearl of the Adriatic, on the Dalmatian coast at the southern end of what is now the independent republic of Croatia.

Phoenix Holidays, British-based but Croatian-owned, is offering weekly direct flights from Gatwick and Manchester beginning in May, with seven-night packages from £215. The leading British tour operators had sent their 1996 brochures to the printers before peace broke out in the Balkans, but are considering a return to Dubrovnik for 1997. Swan Hellenic, the cruise specialist, lists the destination as a port of call in this year's brochure.

In 1990, the last full season before Croatia and Slovenia precipitated hostilities by declaring independence from the then Yugoslavia, Dubrovnik had 853,000 visitors, with the British traditionally out-numbering even Germans and other near neighbours.

During 1991 and 1992, the ravishingly beautiful old town took a fearful pounding from Serb artillery. More than 2,000 shells fired from land and sea hit 563 buildings. The stout medieval walls took 147 direct hits, but survived largely unscathed.

Since then, a huge restoration effort largely funded by Unesco, which lists Dubrovnik as a world heritage site, has returned the town close enough to its former glory for the casual visitor barely to notice the damage. Nearly 250,000 clay tiles were imported from France to replace the roofs, shrapnel holes in the polished limestone pavements have been invisibly mended, and only nine buildings remain gutted.

Several hotels were damaged, and some were subsequently used to house the homeless from the surrounding countryside after villages were bombed and burnt. But Vladimir Bakic, Dubrovnik's director of tourism, said this week that he expected to have 16,000 beds in the immediate area available for the coming season.

"The British were always among our best customers, and provided us with year-round business," Mr Bakic said. "Recently, too many articles in the British press have referred to Dubrovnik as being 'in war-torn Bosnia'. We are in Croatia: the British never holidayed in Bosnia."

There is no denying that as Dubrovnik lies at the southernmost tip of a skinny coastal arm of Croatia, Bosnia is not much more than ten miles away, and you could comfortably drive to the still-disputed town of Mostar in a morning.

Most residents, however, are convinced that Dubrovnik is now perfectly safe, as indeed is the Foreign Office travel advice unit. So too is Tony Uwins, who came with his wife Ruth to live in the town in 1989 after retiring from his career as a solicitor in Lytham St Anne's. The couple brought with them their beloved red 1954 MG open-topped sports car, and enjoyed a brief celebrity by driving defiantly around town at the height of the shelling, flying a large Croatian flag.

"Of course it's safe now. Our grandchildren are coming to stay with us in the summer, and I am perfectly happy about that," Mr Uwins said, proudly displaying the 90mm Serb shell case that he now keeps as a grim but well-polished souvenir in his hall.

SATURDAY ARTICLE

Germany: James Bentley on the fairy-tale castles of King Ludwig.
John Ardagh in Thuringia.

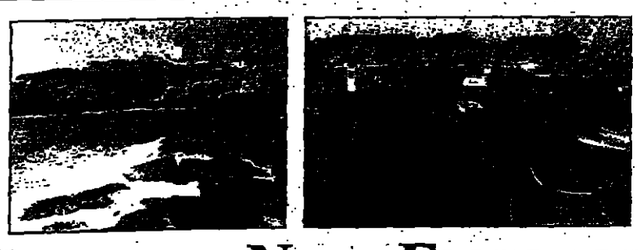
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Kenya rations park visitors

KENYA is to attempt to ration the number of tourists using the most popular game parks by raising admission fees from the beginning of next month, *Harvey Elliott writes*.

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) said this week that the planned increases are designed to "limit visitation at certain popular parks with fragile eco-systems, encourage tourists to visit the less crowded parks and reduce the concentration of visitors on the six most popular parks".

Foreign visitors to Kenya's parks and reserves pay $20 (about £13) per adult and $2 per child. Although KWS manages all 35 parks and reserves, 89 per cent of visitors go to the six most popular.

Under the new pricing structure visitors to Aberdare, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru national parks will pay $27 per adult — a 35 per cent increase — and $10 per child.

Visitors to the Tsavo national parks will pay $23 and $8 respectively and entrance to Nairobi, Shimba Hills and Meru national parks will pay $20 per adult and $5 per child.



Parks are to hike entry fees

The categories, the KWS says, are based on "environmental considerations, business volumes and potential development opportunities".

Dr David Western, director of KWS, said this week: "The categorisation is intended to reducing crowding."

The organisation now covers 60 per cent of its costs through self-generated income, mainly park entry fees, and is planning to become more self-sufficient.

Fast ferry rivals

By Steve Keenan

SALLY Ferries is the latest company to enter the rapidly expanding market for fast ferries this summer.

As the Stena line paraded its new high-speed craft, the HSS, for the first time this week, Sally revealed it is in the final stages of chartering a new fast ferry for its Ramsgate-Ostend route.

The mono-hold craft will carry 700 passengers and 230 cars, and will cut travel times in half to two hours.

Sally also operates two jetfoils and five conventional ferries to Dunkirk and Ostend, and the new move will intensify fast-ferry competition from the Kent ports.

Bill Moses, the group chief executive, said the speed of the new service will appeal to customers used to the "sausage factory" ferries operating out of Dover. He also predicted that Sally could move back into profit this year after losing more than £2m in 1995.

Airlines are miles apart

By David Churchill

BRITISH Airways has emerged as one of the least generous airlines for frequent business travellers to earn free flights, according to a new survey.

It shows that on domestic UK routes, business travellers flying BA have to make up to six more trips than on rival airlines to earn a bonus flight. On longer flights, however, BA's business class customers often get a better deal.

Richard Lovell, managing director of Carlson Wagonlit Travel in Europe, who commissioned the survey, says the results show the complexity of airline loyalty schemes which can cause confusion for companies. The agency also warns that excessive loyalty to one particular scheme can distort travel policy.

The increasing use of frequent flyer schemes by airlines is, however, threatened by the European Commission, which is worried about their impact on competition in the European market.

In the United States there is also a threat from the tax authorities to restrict the allowances companies can claim against air travel if they allow their employees to keep points earned on company business.

TRAVEL BARGAINS

BREAKS

TIME OFF Ltd (0171 235 8070) has a two-night break for art lovers hoping to experience the Vermeer Exhibition in Mauritshuis, The Hague. Travelling on Eurostar costs from £304 per person, or fights from Heathrow, Gatwick or Manchester at £210 per person. Price includes exhibition entry, 2-star hotel accommodation, breakfast and transfers. Available on any day of the week from March 1 - June 2.

☐ KUONI Travel (01306 743666) has seven-nights free accommodation at the Helnan Marina Hotel at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheikh, following a Nile cruise from Aswan to Luxor. The £589 price includes a six-night, first-class cruise, with all meals and excursions, and return flights from Gatwick. Departs April 30, May 7 and 28.

☐ TROPICAL Places (01342 825123) has an offer on a 13-night holiday on the island of Comores, near Tanzania, in the Indian Ocean. Staying at the 3-star Le Galawa Beach Hotel costs £1,479 for the first person, the second paying only half, and includes return flights. From February 28 - March 23.

☐ FOR ART lovers wishing to enjoy the Holders Season of Opera in Barbados, Thomson (0171 707 9000) is offering return flights from Gatwick or Manchester and two-weeks accommodation at the Southern Palms Hotel for £999. Festival tickets begin at £11 for Shakespeare or the opera.

HOTELS

HILTON National guests staying at its Leeds and Huddersfield hotels can visit the new Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds free as part of a two-night weekend break, at prices starting at £32 per person, per night, including a buffet breakfast. Details: 0345 581595 quoting HF.

☐ VISA Business cardholders can achieve savings of up to 40 per cent off the normal rate at more than 7,500 hotels worldwide featured in its new corporate rate hotel directory. Details: 0171-231 5443.

☐ A 6PM late check-out time on a Sunday evening is being offered by Queens Moat Houses for guests on weekend breaks at more than 80 of its hotels in the UK. Prices for the "longer weekend" deal start at £43 per person for two nights. Details: 0645 333666.

☐ WOOD Norton Hall in Worcestershire has cut its weekend rate between now and the end of March to £48.50 per person, per night. Antony Worrall Thompson is also guest chef for a gourmet evening on March 16 at £42.50 per person. Details: 01386 420007.

☐ TRAVELLERS who use Gatwick Airport before they fly off on holiday can get a free teddybear if they stay at the nearby Copthorne Gatwick or Essingham Park hotels. At £88 per room per night, the offer includes free parking for up to 15 days along with the teddybear. Details: 0800 414741.

☐ THE Omaha Beach Golf Club in Normandy is one of six golf courses available for guests at the Quality Friendly hotel in Caen, France to use each day during a two-day special package including golf pass. Prices start from £99 per person for two nights. Details: 0500 616263.

FLIGHTS

TRAVELBAG will provide two night's complementary accommodation in Los Angeles to passengers booking return economy (from £615) or business class (from £2,014) flights to Sydney with Air New Zealand from April 16. Details: 01420 88724.

☐ CATHAY Pacific is offering 1,000 Air Miles, sufficient for a couple of London-Paris tickets, to business-class passengers booking round-trip tickets to Hong Kong. Details 0171-747 7007.

☐ FLY midweek to Antwerp and Cityflyer charges only £49 for an excursion fare from Gatwick. Details 0181-897 4000.

☐ UNTIL March 31 Continental will provide two business-class tickets for the price of one on the Gatwick to New York route. To qualify passengers must join the carrier's frequent flyer scheme. However, enrolment can be arranged at the time of booking. Details 01293 776464.

☐ KLM has introduced a lower £78 excursion fare between Heathrow and Amsterdam. Details 0181-750 9000.

☐ AIR UK now offers the time-saving benefits of telephone check-in to full fare passengers flying its main Anglo-Scottish routes. Details 0345 959506.

☐ SECURE Parking has lowered the cost of leaving your car at Heathrow. The off-airport parking firm charges £4.95 per day, with two weeks or more at a flat £69.30. Details 0181-813 8130.

FERRIES

SOME electrical goods will be reduced in price by Hoverspeed during February and March on its Dover-Calais and Folkestone-Boulogne routes. For example, a Casio twin CD player with cassette and radio is selling for £64.95, half the recommended retail price. The company has £29 day-trip fares from Dover for a car and five passengers (£39 Saturdays), £19 from Folkestone. Foot passengers pay £7 from Dover, £5 from Folkestone; offers valid until March 31. Details: 01304 240241.

☐ SWANSEA Cork Ferries has cut nearly 60 per cent off crossings for a car and five passengers, departing Thursday or Friday and returning on or before the following Monday. The new fare of £135 compares with a brochure price of £318 for travel between March 21 and July 15, excluding April 2-10 and May 21-29. Details: 01792 456116.

☐ SAVINGS to Bilbao in northern Spain are available through Driveline Europe, using P&O European Ferries from Portsmouth. A 17-day excursion, including cabin, for five people and car costs from £199. Details: 01707 660011.

☐ BRITANNY Ferries is offering three-day mini-cruises to Santander in Spain for £39 per person (including cabin berth), and quotes £99 for car and occupants for 16 days. Services are from Portsmouth until March 19, from Plymouth thereafter until March 31. Details: 0990 360360.

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هكذا في الاصل

Not guilty plea insufficient to begin trial

Regina v Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, Ex parte K

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Forbes

[Judgment February 14]

The entering of a not guilty plea in a magistrates court initiated the trial process, but was not sufficient of itself to begin a trial within the meaning of section 25(2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, so as to permit justices to redetermine mode of trial.

However, for the purpose of section 25(2) the trial process did not only begin with the giving of evidence. There were a number of possible circumstances where the court could begin a trial after the taking of a not guilty plea but before hearing evidence, for example where the court heard submissions on a preliminary ruling of law which had a direct and immediate bearing on the conduct and content of the process of determining the guilt or innocence of the accused.

The common law defence of insanity had not been removed from magistrates courts by legislation and was therefore available to a defendant in a summary trial where mens rea was in issue.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment, refusing K's application to quash a decision by Horseferry Road Magistrates Court to commit him to the crown court for trial under section 25 of the 1980 Act, having initially decided to try him summarily on criminal charges to which he pleaded not guilty.

Section 25 of the 1980 Act provides: "(2) Where the court has ... begun to try the information summarily, the court may, at any time before the conclusion of the evidence for the prosecution, discontinue the summary trial and proceed to inquire into the information as examining justices..."

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Paul Bowen for the applicant; Mrs Patricia May for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE FORBES, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the applicant was charged with affray and common assault. After considering a psychiatric report which recommended the making of a hospital order under section 37 of the Mental Health Act 1983, the justices accepted jurisdiction, the applicant consented to summary trial and pleaded not guilty, and the case was adjourned.

On the trial date, further psychiatric reports were before the stipendiary magistrate. They recommended the imposition of a restriction order under section 41 of the 1983 Act, on the basis that the applicant suffered from delusional beliefs. That appeared to raise an arguable defence of insanity.

After hearing preliminary submissions on the questions whether disposal under section 37 of the 1983 Act was still appropriate and whether the defence of insanity was available to the applicant on a summary trial, the magistrate indicated that he wished to re-open the mode of trial procedure and he committed the applicant for trial at the crown court.

Mr Gordon submitted that two issues arose, (i) whether the magistrate had jurisdiction to re-open mode of trial: and (ii) whether the applicant would have been entitled to rely on the defence of insanity at a summary trial of the charges.

Sections 19, 20 and 25(2) of the 1980 Act were relevant. *R v Newham Juvenile Court, Ex parte F* ([1986] 1 WLR 939) was concerned with the effect of section 24(1) and was of little assistance in the proper interpretation of sections 19, 20 and 25(2) of the 1980 Act.

Their Lordships shared the doubts expressed about that case in *R v Hammersmith Juvenile Court, Ex parte O* ((1987) 86 Cr App R 843) and *R v Liverpool Justices, Ex parte CPS, Liverpool* ((1990) 90 Cr App R 261, 268).

Having regard to the mandatory terms of section 20(1), (2) and (3) of the 1980 Act, once magistrates had determined mode of trial under section 19, the only jurisdiction to re-open mode of trial was pursuant to section 25(2).

Mr Gordon submitted that the magistrate had no jurisdiction to re-open mode of trial because he had not begun to try the information. He submitted that *R v Dudley Justices, Ex parte Gillard* ([1986] AC 442) was binding authority for the proposition that the process of summary trial was not begun by either a plea of guilty or not guilty.

Lord Justice Bingham described the effect of *Ex parte Gillard* in *R v St Helens Magistrates Court, Ex parte Critchley* ((1987) 152 JP 102, 105). The court adopted that clear and succinct analysis of the effect of *Ex parte Gillard*.

Mr Gordon submitted that the words "try" and "trial" in section 25(2) of the 1980 Act were construed narrowly in *Ex parte Gillard* to mean the process of determining the guilt or innocence of the accused, which process did not include the initial plea; and that although the facts of the case were concerned only with a plea of guilty, Lord Bridge's speech, in particular at p452, made it clear that the reasoning applied equally to a not guilty plea.

Ex parte Gillard conclusively established that where there was a plea of guilty in the magistrates' court to an information alleging an offence triable either way, the court had not "begun to try the information summarily" for the purposes of section 25(2) of the 1980 Act.

But that case left open the question whether a not guilty plea could form part of the process of determining the guilt or innocence of the accused, in the narrow sense of the words "try" and "trial".

A plea of not guilty could be said to initiate the process of determining guilt or innocence. It was an essential and necessary introduction to the trial. Whether a not guilty plea formed part of the actual process of determining guilt or innocence would depend on the particular facts of the case.

If all that happened following a not guilty plea was that the court put the matter over to another day for trial, the process of determining guilt or innocence, although initiated, had still not begun.

The decision of the Divisional Court in *Ex parte O* was of no real assistance and should be disregarded since the court's attention had not been not drawn to the decision in *Ex parte Gillard*.

The factual circumstances of a particular case had to show something more than a plea of not guilty had occurred before it could be said that the trial had begun for the purposes of section 25(2). But the trial process did not begin only with the giving of evidence.

It was neither necessary nor desirable to enumerate all the possible circumstances where, after a plea of not guilty and before the commencement of the evidence, it could become apparent that the court had embarked upon the process of determining the guilt or innocence of the accused and had thus begun the trial.

But one such possible circumstance could arise where, as in the instant case, the defence made and the magistrate considered submissions on an application for a preliminary ruling of law which had a direct and immediate bearing on the conduct and content of the process of determining the guilt or innocence of the accused.

Thus, while to seek a preliminary ruling as to the appropriateness of a hospital order under section 37 of the 1983 Act was not a matter relevant to the process of determining the guilt or innocence of the applicant, a ruling as to the possible availability of a defence of insanity would have a direct and immediate bearing on the conduct and content of that process.

It was a perfectly proper exercise of the power under section 25(2) for justices to decide to re-open mode of trial as the result of having been apprised of a matter which, had it been known at the time, would have been an appropriate consideration under section 19(3) for the purposes of the original decision as to mode of trial.

The possible defence of insanity and the available powers of the court were matters which were significantly, although not exclusively, offence related and were embraced by the words "any other circumstances" in section 19(3).

In the present case the magistrate was fully justified in committing the applicant to the crown court for trial and the application for judicial review failed.

However, there was a general public interest to be served in expressing the court's conclusions on Mr Gordon's submission that the common law defence of insanity was available as a defence to all criminal charges where mens rea was in issue.

Before 1800 the defence of insanity was available to all criminal prosecutions, whether brought before magistrates or on indictment.

The Criminal Lunatics Act 1800, and the Insane Prisoners Act 1840, which dealt with special verdict procedures in trials on indictment, did not prevent a defendant from relying on a defence of insanity where appropriate in a summary trial.

Section 2(1) of the Trial of Lunatics Act 1883, prior to amendment, was only concerned with criminal trials on indictment and by way of information in the High Court and left unaffected the position with regard to summary trials in magistrates' courts.

Neither the Criminal Procedure (Insanity) Act 1964, nor the Criminal Procedure (Insanity and Unfitness to Plead) Act 1991 affected the definition of insanity at common law, nor did they restrict the offences for which it was available as a defence.

The lack of power of justices to commit a person to the crown court for consideration of the imposition of a restriction order under section 41 of the 1983 Act was an obvious legislative lacuna, but the absence of such power of committal could not found an inference that Parliament had thereby intended to remove from summary trials before justices the common law defence of insanity.

Accordingly, insanity could still be raised as a defence to an appropriate charge being tried summarily.

Solicitors: Aaronsons & Co; Crown Prosecution Service, London.

Proceedings not void by failure to give notice

Director of Public Prosecutions v Cottier

Before Lord Justice Saville and Mr Justice Blofeld

[Judgment February 8]

Proceedings against a young person were begun in court for the purposes of section 34(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 when the defendant was first brought before the court.

It was not necessarily the case that notice had to be given under section 5(8) of that Act to the local authority before proceedings were begun, but the notice had to be given as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision to bring proceedings was made. That might and usually would be before court proceedings were begun.

Notices did not have to be given in writing and a failure to comply with the requirements of either section did not render the proceedings null and void.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when allowing an appeal by the Director of Public Prosecutions by way of case stated against the decision of Watford Justices on October 6, 1995 to adjourn proceedings against Duncan Cottier as null and void since by virtue of section 34(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 there had been a failure to comply with section 5(8) of that Act. The case was remitted to the justices.

Section 34(2) of the 1969 Act, as amended by section 108(4) of the Children Act 1989 and section 168(1) of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, provides:

"In the case of a person who has not attained the age of eighteen but has attained such lower age as the secretary of state may by order specify, no proceedings ... for an offence shall be begun in any court unless the person proposing to bring the proceedings has, in addition to any notice failing to be given by him to a local authority in pursuance of section ... 5(8) of this Act, given notice to a probation officer for the area for which the court acts; ..."

Section 5(8) of the 1969 Act provides: "It shall be the duty of a person who decides to lay an information in respect of an offence in a case where ... the ... offender is a young person to give notice of the decision to the appropriate local authority..."

On July 20, Mr Cottier was charged with one breach of the Public Order Act 1986 and two breaches of the Criminal Damage Act 1971. He was bailed to appear before the Watford Youth Court on August 25, 1995.

On August 22 the Watford probation service was notified in writing of the proceedings. On August 23 a police officer posted to Haringey social services department a copy of a form containing the information required by section 5(8) and on August 24 he spoke to an individual working for the Haringey youth justice team and gave him the same information. The posted information did not reach Haringey social services until just after Mr Cottier's appearance before the justices.

The case was adjourned to October 6. The magistrates concluded that the effect of section 34(2) was to require notice to the local authority as well as notice to the relevant probation officer to be given before the proceedings were begun.

They also concluded that such notices had to be given in writing, that the proceedings were begun when Mr Cottier appeared on August 25, 1995, and that since no written notice had been given to the appropriate local authority before that event, the proceedings were null and void.

Mr Stephen Richards for the DPP; Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Richard Green for Mr Cottier.

LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE said that the 1969 Act itself did not stipulate that notice had to be given in writing. Mr Blake relied on section 231(8) of the Local Government Act 1972. However his Lordship noted that subsection did not state in terms that all notices to local authorities had to be in writing. The highest it could be put was that the modes of service it permitted were obviously only available for written notices.

Section 34(2) of the 1969 Act stipulated that no proceedings should be begun in any court unless the requirements of the subsection were met. In his Lordship's judgment those words meant when the defendant was first brought before a court.

His Lordship reached that conclusion by reference to section 2(14) of the Act: "For the purposes of this Act, care proceedings in respect of a relevant infant are begun when he is first brought before a juvenile court ... in connection with the matter to which the proceedings relate."

It was the case that sections 1 to 3 of the Act were repealed by the Children Act 1989. However, as originally enacted section 34(2), immediately before the reference to section 5(8) also referred to any notice to be given under section 2(3). There was nothing to suggest that Parliament, when enacting section 34(2), intended to stipulate a different test.

The answer to the question when proceedings were instituted or begun depended on the context in which the words were used and the purpose of the provision.

Since it was common ground that the relevant probation officer was informed of the proceedings on August 22 and the relevant local authority on August 24, there was no failure to comply with either section 5(8) or section 34(2).

His Lordship further considered that section 34(2) could not be read as imposing a requirement that the section 5(8) notice must be given before proceedings were begun in court. So far as section 5(8) was concerned, there was nothing to indicate that the notice must be given by or before any specified time or event.

The principal reason for requiring the section 5(8) notice was to enable the local authority to perform its duty under section 9. Section 9(2) clearly contemplated that there might be cases where the information had not been provided, for whatever reason, and the court had to ask for it. Thus section 9 did not presuppose that the information would always be available as soon as it was needed. Therefore, there was nothing to indicate that section 5(8) imposed any temporal requirement.

There remained the question of the effect of a failure to comply with the subsections under discussion. The court had been referred to section 5(6), which provided that no proceedings should be invalidated by reason of a contravention of any provision of 5(8).

However, subsections (1) to (7) were never brought into force and were eventually repealed by the Criminal Justice Act 1991. His Lordship could see no reason to suppose Parliament intended, if subsections (1) to (7) were to be abandoned, that in any event a breach of subsection (8) would have the effect of invalidating proceedings.

His Lordship considered that subsection to be a directory rather than a mandatory provision: see *Bennion's Statutory Interpretation* (2nd edition (1992) 28).

His Lordship reached the same conclusion in relation to section 34(2). If a failure to comply with section 5(8) did not invalidate proceedings, there was no good reason why Parliament should have intended the opposite in the case of a notice to the probation officer. There was no reason for drawing a distinction.

Mr Justice Blofeld agreed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, St Albans; Wilson & Co, Tottenham.

Capital sum provisions on disposal do not apply

Chaloner (Inspector of Taxes) v Pellipar Investments Ltd

Before Mr Justice Rattee

[Judgment February 16]

The provisions of section 20 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979, now reenacted in section 22 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, on disposal where capital sums derived from assets, did not apply to the receipt by a landowner of "money's worth" in exchange for the grant of leases of land.

Section 20(1)(d) applied to capital sums received as consideration for use or exploitation of assets but was not apt to include capital sums received as consideration for the grant of the owner's title to the land.

Mr Justice Rattee so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing the Crown's appeal from a determination of Mr T. H. K. Everett, a special commissioner, in favour of Pellipar Investments Ltd in relation to estimated assessments to capital gains tax for accounting periods to June 1988 and June 1992 respectively.

Section 20 of the 1979 Act provides: "(1) ... there is for the purposes of this Act a disposal of assets by their owner where any capital sum is derived from assets notwithstanding that no asset is acquired by the person paying the capital sum, and this subsection applies in particular to — ... (d) capital sums received as consideration for use or exploitation of assets.

"(2) In the case of a disposal within paragraph ... (d) of subsection (1) above the time of the disposal shall be the time when the capital sum is received as described in that subsection.

"(3) ... 'capital sum' means any money or money's worth..."

Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown; Mr Richard Bramwell, QC, for the company.

MR JUSTICE RATTEE said that in 1987 the company entered into an agreement with developers for the redevelopment of three sites, A, B and C, that the company owned in the City of London. The agreement provided that the development of site A was to be consideration for the grant by the company of leases of sites B and C to the developers. Site A was completed in July 1991.

It was agreed that the consideration for the leases in the form of the redevelopment of site A was "money's worth", but was not a premium.

The question was whether the value of the development of site A was a "capital sum received as consideration for the use or exploitation of assets".

The answer affected the timing of the disposal for tax purposes. If section 20(1)(d) applied then the disposal took place when the benefit of the development was received by the company, namely July 1991. If it did not apply the disposal date was the date of the agreement, August 1987.

The 1991 date for which the company contended gave it the benefit of the "re-basing" provisions in section 96 of the Finance Act 1988 for computation purposes.

The commissioner accepted the company's case that since the capital sum was consideration for the grant of leases of sites B and C, it was received as consideration for the use of assets within section 20(1)(d).

The Crown's case was that the grant of the leases of sites B and C constituted disposals of those sites by virtue of section 19(2) on part disposal of an asset. Section 20, it was argued, was dealing with transactions where value was realised from an asset while leaving the asset intact in the hands of the owner.

In *Marren v Ingles* ([1980] 1 WLR 983) the House of Lords considered the words "capital sums received as consideration for use or exploitation of assets".

In the context of section 20(1)(d) they were apt to include capital sums received as consideration for the use or exploitation of assets title to which remained unaffected in their owner referred to in the opening words of section 20(1), but were not apt to include capital sums received as consideration for a grant of the owner's title to the assets, whether in perpetuity or for a term of years.

The commissioner was wrong to allow the appeal on the ground that the benefit to the company of the development of site A was a capital sum within section 20(1)(d) of the Act.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Farrer & Co.

House cannot be forfeited

Regina v Pearce

Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Mr Justice Buckley and Judge Hyam

[Judgment February 19]

Although real property was bought solely to facilitate the cultivation of controlled drugs, section 27 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 did not empower a court to order forfeiture of that real property.

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing the appeal of John Frederick Pearce against an order made under section 27 of the 1971 Act by Judge Rogers, QC, at Maidstone Crown Court on September 28, 1995 of the forfeiture of premises on which the appellant had cultivated controlled drugs.

On April 10, 1995 before Judge Balston the appellant had pleaded guilty to producing cannabis. He did not appeal against a sentence of three years imprisonment.

Section 27 of the 1971 Act provides: "... the court by or before which a person is convicted of an offence under this Act may order anything shown to the satisfaction of the court to relate to the offence, to be forfeited and either destroyed or dealt with in such other manner as the court may order."

Mr Andrew Ritter, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr John Bishop for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that Judge Rogers took the view that the word "anything" in the section included the house in question which, he held, had been bought solely for the purpose of cultivating the drugs.

The appellant submitted that the word "anything" did not include real property and their Lordships were referred to three authorities: *R v Beard (Graham)* ([1974] 1 WLR 1549), *R v Cuthbertson* ([1981] AC 470) and *R v Khan (Sultan Ashraf)* ([1982] 1 WLR 1405).

In *Khan* the court plainly thought that the effect of the two earlier decisions was that section 27 was not available to enable a court to order forfeiture of a house: see p1408E. Their Lordships were bound by the reasoning in that case, albeit the facts were slightly different. In those circumstances the appeal had to be allowed.

To some extent the problem could be mitigated in future by a court imposing a fine equal to or less than the value of the property in question, which could be enforced as a result of the sale of the property.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Kent.

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Pay rise for those on maternity leave

Gillespie and Others v Northern Health and Social Services Board and Others

Case C-342/93

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges D. A. O. Edward, J.-P. Puissochet, G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, F. A. Schockweiler, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, J. L. Murray and P. Jann

Advocate General P. Léger

[Opinion June 6, 1995]

[Judgment February 13]

The principle of equal pay in Community law did not require that women should continue to receive full pay during maternity leave and did not lay down specific criteria for determining the amount of benefit payable during that period, provided that the amount of benefit was not so low as to undermine the purpose of maternity leave.

To the extent that it was calculated on the basis of pay received before the beginning of maternity leave, the amount of benefit had to take account of pay rises awarded during the maternity leave.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference, by order dated June 25, 1993, by the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EEC Treaty, on questions on the interpretation of article 119 of the Treaty and Council Directive 75/117/EEC of February 10, 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women (OJ 1975 L45 p19).

Joan Gillespie and 16 other plaintiffs, employees of various Northern Ireland health services, took maternity leave during 1988.

Under a collective agreement, they received during that period full weekly pay for the first four weeks, nine-tenths of full weekly pay for two weeks thereafter, and one-half of full weekly pay for 12 weeks. The amount of benefit was determined, pursuant to Northern Ireland regulations, on the basis of average weekly pay in the two months preceding the fifteenth week before the beginning of the expected week of confinement, the reference pay. No provision was made for an increase in reference pay in the event of a subsequent pay rise.

In November 1988 backdated pay increases in the health services were awarded, but the plaintiffs were unable to receive that increase because of the method of calculating maternity benefit laid down in the collective agreement.

In proceedings brought by them the plaintiffs claimed to have suffered discrimination on the ground of sex, because (i) their pay had been reduced during maternity leave and (ii) they had not received the benefit of the backdated pay rise.

Article 119 of the EC Treaty provides: "Each member state shall ... ensure and ... maintain the application of the principle that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work.

"For the purpose of this article, 'pay' means the ordinary basic or minimum wage or salary and any other consideration ... which the worker receives, directly or indirectly, in respect of his employment from his employer..."

Article 1 of Directive 75/117 provides: "The principle of equal pay for men and women outlined in article 119 of the Treaty ... means, for the same work or for work to which equal value is attributed, the elimination of all discrimination on grounds of sex with regard to all aspects and conditions of remuneration..."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

It followed from case law that since the benefit paid by an employer under legislative or collective agreements to a woman on maternity leave was based on the employment relationship, it constituted pay within the meaning of article 119 of the Treaty and Directive 75/117. Article 119 of the Treaty and article 1 of the directive therefore precluded regulations which permitted men and women to be paid at different rates for the same work or for work of equal value.

It was well settled that discrimination involved the application of different rules to comparable situations or the application of the same rule to different situations.

Women taking maternity leave provided for by national legislation were in a special position which required them to be afforded special protection, but which was not comparable either with that of a man or with that of a woman actually at work.

Council Directive 92/85/EEC of October 19, 1992 (OJ 1992 L348 p1) provided for various measures to protect, inter alia, the safety and health of female workers, especially before and after giving birth.

Since, in view of its date, that directive did not apply to the present case, it was for the national legislature to set the amount of the benefit to be paid during maternity leave, having regard to the duration of such leave and the existence of any other social advantages.

At the material time neither article 119 of the Treaty nor article 1 of Directive 75/117 required that women should continue to receive full pay during maternity leave. Nor did those provisions lay down any specific criteria for determining the amount of benefit to be paid to them during that period.

The amount payable could not, however, be so low as to undermine the purpose of maternity leave, namely, the protection of women before and after giving birth. In order to assess the adequacy of the amount payable from that point of view, the national court must take account of the length of the maternity leave and of other forms of social protection afforded by national law in the case of justified absence from work.

There was nothing to suggest that in the present case the amount of the benefit granted was such as to undermine the objective of protecting maternity leave.

A woman on maternity leave should receive a pay rise awarded before or during that period, for the following reasons.

The benefit paid during maternity leave was equivalent to a weekly payment calculated on the basis of the average pay received by the worker at the time when she was actually working and which was paid to her week by week, just like any other worker.

The principle of non-discrimination therefore required that a woman who was still linked to her employer by a contract of employment or an employment relationship during maternity leave must, like any other worker, benefit from any pay rise, even if backdated, which was awarded between the beginning of the period covered by reference pay and the end of maternity leave.

To deny such an increase to a woman on maternity leave would discriminate against her purely in her capacity as a worker since, had she not been pregnant, she would have received the pay rise.

On those grounds, the Court of Justice ruled:

The principle of equal pay laid down in article 119 of the EEC Treaty and set out in detail in Council Directive 75/117/EEC neither required that women should continue to receive full pay during maternity leave, nor laid down specific criteria for determining the amount of benefit payable to them during that period, provided that the amount was not set so low as to jeopardise the purpose of maternity leave.

However, to the extent that it was calculated on the basis of pay received by a woman before the commencement of maternity leave, the amount of benefit must include pay rises awarded between the beginning of the period covered by reference pay and the end of maternity leave, as from the date on which they took effect.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

I AM HEATHCLIFF...

As Cliff Richard limbers up for his musical of Wuthering Heights, Lesley White, in the **Magazine**, finds out if the Bachelor Boy is too nice to play the Brontë brute



PLUS



DO WOMEN WEAR JOCKSTRAPS?

They play just as rough as the men on the pitch – and off. From locker room to bar room, the Magazine sees the England women's rugby team in action

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Alderbrook waits on early inspection at Wincanton

Putty Road ruled out for season

BY OUR RACING STAFF

PUTTY ROAD was withdrawn from the Stayers' Hurdle at yesterday's forfeit stage after injuring himself at home.

The David Nicholson-trained gelding was a well-fancied 7-1 chance for the three-mile championship race at Cheltenham on the strength of his battling Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle victory last year. He had finished runner-up in his three starts this season.

But Nicholson yesterday confirmed that the six-year-old would be out for the season. "He injured his near-fore joint last week and will be out until next year. But it is not too bad and he will be fine next season."

William Hill reacted by shortening Seekin Cash from 7-2 to 5-2 and Derrymoyle from 6-1 to 9-2. Other prices: 9-2 Silver Wedge, 7-1 Better Times Ahead (from 10-1), 7-1 Cyborgo (from 6-1), 12-1 Hebridean, 14-1 Tiananmen Square, 16-1 Mole Board, 20-1 bar.

Coral are more generous, offering 3-1 Seekin Cash, 5-1 Derrymoyle and 7-1 Silver Wedge.

Another notable Cheltenham hope removed from the Gold Cup entry list at yesterday's forfeit stage is the Martin Pipe-trained Banjo.

Pipe conceded that time had run out in his effort to get last year's Sun Alliance Chase third to this year's Festival. He said: "Banjo has pulled some muscles in his hind quarters and future plans have been put on hold."

Banjo's injury adds to the unfortunate record of the leading candidates in last year's Sun Alliance Chase. Brief Gale, the winner, has been retired, the runner-up, Harcon, is out for the season and the fourth and fifth, Sweet Duke and Petosku, have died.

Pipe had more encouraging news of Cyborgo. "I'm still hoping to run him in the Stayers' Hurdle," he said. The trainer has still to decide whether Valfinet will run in the Queen Mother Champion Chase or the Grand Annual.

The West Country trainer has a live contender in Drabergie for the Arkle Chase. The French import, who romped home by 25 lengths in a Warwick handicap chase last month, is 9-2 joint-favourite with the Irish hope Manhattan Castle, who was backed at 5-1 with Coral yesterday.

Still on the Festival front, the Barking-based bookmakers reported strong support for Johnny Setaside in the Sun Alliance Chase. Noel Meade's chaser was cut from 14-1 to 10-1 behind Noel Chance's impressive Ascot winner Mr Mulligan, who will be ridden by Richard Johnson.

Contingency plans have been made to move the MD Foods Farmers Select Hurdle to Haydock Park's Saturday card in the event of tomorrow's fixture at the Lancashire track being lost to the weather.

Overnight declarations for the race, which features several Champion Hurdle contenders, will stand if the event is rescheduled for Saturday.

☐ Reg Hollinshead faces the Jockey Club disciplinary committee today after running Loch Style in the Waterford Median Auction Stakes at Southwell on January 8 when the colt had not been declared for the race.

JULIAN HERBERT



Banjo has been forced to miss the Cheltenham Gold Cup because of a muscular injury in his hind quarters

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: NAHLA
(4.35 Wincanton)
Next best: Gentle Irony
(3.45 Lingfield Park)

Simple Arithmetic ready to resume winning ways

WINCANTON
CHANNEL 4

2.35: Inchcailloch has been a little disappointing since beating Certainly Strong on his chasing debut at Kempton. He will struggle to give 6lb to **Simple Arithmetic**, who finished third in last season's Supreme Novices' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. He travelled well until blundering six out at Warwick last time, but will take all the beating here back over the minimum trip.

Nemuro has ability but cannot be relied upon and Big Strand, who failed to stay 2½ miles at Lingfield last week, is a greater threat.

3.05: **Barton Bank** will need to win this if he is make a serious bid for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Pulled up in the King George on his last start, he had previously shown that he retains plenty of ability when beating Young Hustler by seven lengths at Wetherby. He should be too good for these, but his tendency to break blood vessels prevents maximum confidence. Flyer's Nap was well beaten in fourth behind Sunley Bay at Newbury recently, but can reverse the form on 2lib better terms.



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

3.35: **Alderbrook** has had chips removed from both knees since last running on the Flat at Baden-Baden in May. However, he has reportedly made a full recovery, and can repeat his win in this race last season en route to defending his Champion Hurdle crown.

Right Win, also a smart performer on the level, made a pleasing debut over hurdles at Sandown, but the form amounts to little. If Alderbrook is below par, Clifton Beat, who has been running with credit all season, is more likely to take advantage.

4.05: Larry's Lord has potential, but his jumping is sketchy and the form of his latest win at Southwell has not worked out well.

Super Tactics failed to stay in heavy ground when fourth at Newton Abbot last month, and will go close on today's faster surface. However, preference is for Kim Bailey's **Act Of Parliament**. He was held up by his conditional rider when disappointing last time, but is likely to be given a more positive ride by Richard Dunwoody.

ROBERT WRIGHT

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

2.00 Brave Patriarch
2.35 Nemuro
3.05 Barton Bank
3.35 Alderbrook
4.05 SUPER TACTICS (nap)
4.35 Nahla
5.05 Lotschberg Express

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.35 ROBINS PRIDE.

GUIDE TO OUR NAP

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Baccarat member Six-figure-Toura (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified) Horse's name. Days since last outing. F # flat (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite, o — latest race). Going on which horse has been (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD (7AM INSPECTION) S1S

2.00 MERE MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,915: 2m) (18 runners)

1		0	BLUSTERY DAY 49 (Kavanagh Roofing) R Allner 6-11-5	A Maguire	—
2		3	BRAVE PATRIARCH 12 (P Winkfield) N Henderson 5-12-5	M A Fitzgerald	94
3			DAIRAAN 720F (Great Marquess Partners) M Weston-Davies 7-11-5	C Llewellyn	—
4		4	DARK STRANGER 89 (T Hall) C Brooks 5-11-5	G Bradley	(3)
5			DEROS 558F (R Godfrey) M Pipe 5-11-5	D Bridgwater	—
6		3	FABULOUS MYOTO 7 (Mr Paul M Saunders) S Mellor 5-11-5		78
7			FELLOO (Mrs J Edwards-Heathcoat) T George 7-11-5	R Johnson (5)	—
8			FOREST STAR 51F (Mrs A Houghton) R Akehurst 7-11-5	S Ryan (7)	—
9			FRED JEFFREY (L Kerber) A Turnell 5-11-5	G Mitchell	—
10		0	KIRBY MOORSIDE 35 (D Minty) R Baker 5-11-5	Mr I Dowdeswell	—
11		50-3	SUPREME FLAME 42 (H Cole) C Popham 6-11-5	T Dascombe (5)	87
12		0-0	UPHAM RASCAL 92 (R Bridgwood) D Gandolfo 5-11-5	D Leahy	—
13			WINGHAM'S NANNY (Miss C Bingham) R Alner 6-11-0	W McFarland	—
14		6P	WOLIAN CROWN 99 (F Buckley) N Thompson 6-11-0	S Powell	—
15		54-0	MISS FIRECRACKER 85 (Mrs R Stanley) R Frost 7-11-0	J Frost	—
16			JUST-MAMA-MOO 65F (S & T Racing) W G M Turner 4-10-9	R Dunwoody	—
17			ROSENCRANTZ 482E (L Fyffield) Miss V Williams 4-10-9	A P McCoy	—
18			FARMER'S TERN 94F (Mrs A Clegg) D Sherwood 4-10-4	D Thomas (7)	—

BETTING: 7-4 Brave Patriarch, 2-1 Dajaan, 5-1 Dark Stranger, 7-1 Deros, 8-1 Forest Star, 12-1 Fabulous Myoto, 14-1 others.

1995: SLEW MAN 4-10-9 J Lowe (7-1) M Pipe 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

BRAVE PATRIARCH 163H 3rd of 16 to Master Tribs in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft) DARK STRANGER 61 4th of 25 to Stanlow in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy). FABULOUS MYOTO 111H4 3rd of 14 to Mixed Count in maiden hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft) SUPREME FLAME 814F 3rd of 17 to Wild West Wind in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft)
Selection: DARK STRANGER

2.35 GEORGE NEWALL NOVICES CHASE C4
(£4,250: 2m) (8 runners)

1		004-312	BIG STRAND 8 (D,BF,G,S) (E Jones) M Pipe 7-11-8	D Bridgwater	90
2		54-1442	INCHCAILLOCH 23 (D,B,S) (F Carter) J King 7-11-8	G Upton	93
3		01F0S6	NEMURO 8 (B,F,G) (Tust City) D Elsworth 8-11-8	P Holley	(5)
4		22/F26	CASPIAN BELUGA 33F (L Hawkings) S Knight 8-11-2	S Burrough	—
5		D1/23FU	HAWAIIAN SAM 6 (G) (R Russell) A Turnell 6-11-2	S Corbe	92
6		4-1FR05	REESHLOCH 9 (S) (Mrs M Taylor) A Turnell 7-11-2	S McNeill	80
7		30/-3F6	SIMPLE ARITHMETIC 49 (BF,S) (Mrs M Medley) K Bailey 8-11-2	R Dunwoody	97
8		63/245U	SMILING CHIEF 5 (G) (Mrs E Tucker) R Hodges 8-11-2	T Dascombe	77

BETTING: 6-4 Inchcailloch, 3-1 Simple Arithmetic, 4-1 Big Strand, 7-1 Hawaiian Sam, 8-1 Nemuro, 10-1 Caspian Beluga, 14-1 others

1995: FRONT STREET 8-11-2 J Osborne 9-4 (S Sherwood) 9ran

FORM FOCUS

BIG STRAND 9t 2nd of 9 to Fools Errand in novice chase at Lingfield (2m 41H, heavy). INCHCAILLOCH 15H 2nd of 5 to Trying Again on novice chase at Kempton (2m, good) NEMURO 111H4 5th of 6 to Senor El Betrutti in Scally Isles Novice Chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. SIMPLE ARITHMETIC best effort 12f 3rd of 5 to Certainly Strong in Henry VIII Novice Chase at Sandown (2m, good).
Selection: INCHCAILLOCH

3.05 JIM FORD CHALLENGE CUP CHASE C3
(£11,860: 3m 1f 110yd) (5 runners)

1		U3F6-1P	BARTON BANK 47 (F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 10-11-12	A Maguire	93
2		1PF-P43	LUSTY LIGHT 5 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (S Bonnycastle) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-8	W Marston	88
3		20344P	BISHOPS HALL 88 (D,F,G,S) (T Carroll) R Alner 10-11-7	S McNeill	72
4		1F-3244	FLYER'S NAP 12 (CD,G,S) (A Tory) R Alner 10-11-2	Mr P Hanley	81
5		422F71	SUNLEY BAY 12 (CD,G,S) (Miss M Barber) P Nicholls 10-11-2	P Hide	83

BETTING: 4-6 Barton Bank, 5-2 Lusty Light, 10-1 Flyer's Nap, 12-1 Sunley Bay, 14-1 Bishops Hall.

1995: MONSIEUR LE CURE 9-11-7 P Niven 5-6 (J Edwards) 6ran

FORM FOCUS

BARTON BANK best Young Hustler 7l at 3-runner grade II Charlie Hall Chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. LUSTY LIGHT 15H1 last of 4 to Dublin Flyer in John Bull Chase here (2m 5f, good to soft) on penultimate start. FLYER'S NAP about 4l 4th of 16 to Superior Finish in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5f 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. SUNLEY BAY best Dennis Dove ahead-faced in 13-runner handicap chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good to soft)
Selection: BARTON BANK

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%
Lady Herries	4	10	40.0
D Sherwood	10	30	33.3
Mrs J Pitman	23	76	29.9
M Pipe	37	124	29.5
M Tweston-Davies	12	53	22.6

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
R Dunwoody	31	146	21.2
G Bradley	8	46	17.4
T Dascombe	4	25	16.0
C Llewellyn	11	69	15.9
G McCourt	7	46	15.2

3.35 K J PIKE & SONS KINGWELL HURDLE C4
(Grade II: £15,700: 2m) (8 runners)

1		0/11-	ALDERBROOK 270F (C,D,S) (E Pick) K Bailey 7-11-10	R Dunwoody	93
2		1	RIGHT WIN 47 (D,S) (C Ravenaugh) R Hanson 6-11-10	G McCourt	88
3		025-1	GAROLO 50 (D,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 6-11-7	G Bradley	—
4		35411-2	LAND AFAR 19 (D,S,S) (T Ford) P Webber 9-11-7	M A Fitzgerald	87
5		2-31266	CLIFTON BEAT 12 (D,S,S) (D O'Connor) P Hobbs 5-11-2	A P McCoy	93
6		4-F23UF	GROUND RUT 7 (C,D,S) (Mr's R Haskins) R Budder 6-11-2	B Powell	50
7		3-12	MACK THE KNIFE 40 (D,BF,S) (D & B Mercer) M Pipe 7-11-2	D Bridgwater	52
8		/31164/	MUSE 482F (D,S,S) (White Horse Racing) D Elsworth 9-11-2	P Holley	—

BETTING: 4-5 Alderbrook, 5-2 Right Win, 10-1 Land Afar, 12-1 Mack The Knife, 14-1 Clifton Beat, 16-1 Muse, 25-1 others.

1995: ALDERBROOK 6-11-2 N Williamson (11-4) K Bailey 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALDERBROOK completed double, beat Large Action in grade I Stanelli Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft), LAND AFAR (3lb better off) away chance when fell 3 out. RIGHT WIN beat Singing Primitive 5l in 8-runner grade I Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown (2m, 110yd, good to soft), GAROLO beat Fellaroo 14l in 12-runner conditions hurdle at Cagnes-Sur-Mer (3m, soft). LAND AFAR 8l 2nd of 5 to Alcoora in Agia Hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good to firm). CLIFTON BEAT 31H1 2nd of 3 to Alcoora in the good if Tingleford Elite Hurdle over course and distance (good to firm). MACK THE KNIFE 36H 2nd of 17 to Astreall Boy in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, soft). MUSE 28l 4th of 9 to Damill in grade I Morrell Aintree Hurdle at Aintree (2m 4f, good)
Selection: ALDERBROOK (nap)

4.05 LADBROKE HANDICAP CHASE C4
(£7,295: 2m 5f) (15 runners)

1		2/12P3-P	KALANSKI 38 (D,G,S) (I Kennard) C Egerton 10-11-12	J A McCarthy	90
2		4-321FP	DRUMALLOW LODGE 42 (V,D,S) (H Spaniel) C Benstead 9-11-11	D Bridgwater	92
3		1P/03FR	THE GLOW 99 (D,G,S) (Mrs T Brown) D Elsworth 8-11-10	P Holley	84
4		11/FP-45	LAKE MISSION 12 (G) (W Montgomery) Mrs J Pitman 11-11-9	W Marston	88
5		6P-F524	MAD THYME 12 (CD,G,S) (R Jenks) N Gaselee 9-11-9	A Tory	90
6		42-53U0	BOLD CHOICE 47 (F,G,S) (J Joseph) R Frost 10-11-7	J Frost	91
7		31F1/3-4	CORRARDER 84 (D,F,S) (Mrs E Osbourne) J Old 12-11-5	Mr J Smyth-Osbourne	84
8		224-150	ACT OF PARLIAMENT 12 (B,F,S) (J Pearce) K Bailey 9-11-5	R Dunwoody	97
9		18-F131	LARRY'S LORD 70 (CD,F,S,S) (M Jolley) P Nicholls 7-11-0	A P McCoy	87
10		312U-2P	CHIP AND RUN 236 (F,S) (C Morphy) P Nicholls 10-10-13	P Hide	88
11		332/S1P	TUDOR FABLE 50 (BF,S,S) (J Collins) M Henderson-3 10-10-13	Mr A Fitzgerald	90
12		5D4324	SUPER TACTICS 31 (BF,G,S) (N Perry) R Alner 8-10-12	Mr P Henley (5)	91
13		22-4P2P	POWDER BOY 47 (D,F,G) (D Hurford) R Hodges 11-10-4	B Powell	93
14		0316F5	CONTI O'ETTRUVAL 28 (CD,F,G) (B Kay) S Baldings 6-10-1	S Clifford	93
15		P11F4-6	BRIMPTON BERTIE 91 (CD,F) (Whitewave Racing) D Chappell 7-10-0	G Upton	94

BETTING: 5-1 Larry's Lord, 6-1 Lake Mission, 7-1 Super Tactics, Mad Thyme, 8-1 Chip And Run, 10-1 Drumallow Lodge, Corrarder, 14-1 others

1995: MR FLANAGAN 9-10-4 D Gallagher (11-4) C Brooks 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

MAD THYME 3½l 2nd of 9 to Tessa in handicap chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. ACT OF PARLIAMENT best effort beat Calcomy Boy 4l in 4-runner handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f, good to firm). LARRY'S LORD beat Award Boy 5l in 6-runner handicap chase at Southwell (2m 4f 110yd, good). CHIP AND RUN 1l 2nd of 6 to Destra Dove in handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). SUPER TACTICS about 51/4l 4th of 8 to Tessa in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 5f 110yd, heavy)
Selection: MAD THYME

4.35 ILCHESTER HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,721: 2m) (20 runners)

1		1-61501	SPRING SAINT 10 (S) (Miss C Horley) Miss C Horley 7-12-5 (6ex)	G Upton	91
2		051/54-5	BOYFRIEND 8 (F) (Mrs T Brown) D Elsworth 6-11-11	A Procter (3)	80
3		3S1416	CORRIN HILL 42 (BF,F,G,S) (B Freeman) R Hodges 9-11-10	T Dascombe (5)	89
4		5/2252-4	JOVIAL MAN 338 (S) (Mrs B Merchant) R O'Sullivan 7-11-9	B Powell	84
5		100	RELIGIOUSMEN 39 (D,S) (Mrs M Barton) A Turnell 5-11-7	B Michell	84
6		0/3-6	AMAZE 34 (Lady Phillips) Lady Herries 7-11-7	E Murphy	82
7		3U3-P4P	PLAYING TRUANT 36 (CD,G) (D Mann) D Gandolfo 8-11-7	D Leahy	—
8		655-	LORD NITROGEN 344 (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 6-11-5	Mr J L Llewellyn	80
9		1BF004-	ENTEFAAL 27BF (F) (Ms. M. Hocar) J King 5-11-5	M A Fitzgerald	80
10		F1-5212	ROBINS PRIDE 8 (CD,E,S) (M Long) C Popham 6-11-3	Mr J Culloty (7)	89
11		0P9-623	KING'S GOLD 50 (G Reilly) Mrs L Richards 8-11-3	M Richards	91
12		0R90F3	LAWRENWOOD JUNIOR 10 (F) (G Trogtown) J Spearing 9-11-3	J Lodder	87
13		21/0F0I	NINA L 12 (S) (Sale Sis) Miss J Doyle 5-11-1	S Curran (5)	82
14		33/-5000	NINE O THREE 40 (S) (Sidcot Tool Ltd) A Newcombe 7-11-0	A P McCoy	87
15		00115-0	WINSPIT 42 (F) (CD) (Mrs J Pardie) R Alner 6-10-13	Mr P Henley (5)	83
16		/1P/0	EASTER BABY 36 (D,S) (P Cundell) P Cundell 10-10-13	L Harvey	—
17		13F-	JUNCTION TWENTYTWO 27F (F) (C Major) C Broad 6-10-12	W Marston	88
18		3P2308	BISHOPS CASTLE 36 (B) (AEC Electric Fencing) R Frost 8-10-9	J Frost	86
19		0P3P	SOMMARIVA STAR 34 (Mrs A Dooks) R Hanks 8-10-7	D Bridgwater	94
20		300	JARVEY 44 (B Lewendon) P Eccles 4-10-1	Chris Webb (5)	—

BETTING: 5-1 Corrin Hill, 8-1 Spring Saint, 9-1 Lawrenwood Junior, 10-1 Nitrie, Robins Pride, Amaze, 12-1 others.

1995: KING'S CROSS 6-10-1 N Williamson (14-1) A Wilson 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

SPRING SAINT beat Goldfinge 6l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, heavy). CORRIN HILL beat Hawaiian Sam 6l in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good) on penultimate start. JOVIAL MAN about 24l 4th of 10 to Prince Tenton in conditional jockeys handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f, good to soft) ROBINS PRIDE beat 2nd of 17 to Frogmarch in claiming hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, soft). KING'S GOLD 18½l 3rd of 16 to Kingdom Of Shades in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). BISHOPS CASTLE 9l 3rd of 12 to Kelly Mac in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, soft).
Selection: ROBINS PRIDE

5.05 BONUSPRINT STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,327: 2m) (18 runners)

1		4	ASHTAR 30 (A White) M Pipe 5-11-4	G Bannons (7)	—
2			CAMBRIANO'S LAD (J Male) R Alner 5-11-4	Mr P Henley (5)	—
3			CONKERDOR (Mrs J Atkinson) R Budder 5-11-4	Mr B Dixon (7)	—
4			DOUBLEBEEWAYESS (M Keenor) M Keenor 6-11-4	Mr I Dowdeswell	—
5			HANGTEM OUT TO DRY (Torrance and Davies Racing) C Brooks 5-11-4	Mr E James	—
6			LORD MILLS 98 (M Worcester) N Chance 5-11-4	R Johnson (3)	—
7			LORD REGAL (Crombie Racing) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	Mr M McGrath (7)	—
8			MILLCROFT BRUCIA (J Carter) R Alner 5-11-4	A P McCoy	87
9			MR STRIKING SALE (T Chapgell) P Nicholls 5-11-4	T Dascombe (5)	—
10			THYME IN MOTION (Mrs M McKenna) C Brooks 5-11-4	Mr C Vigors (5)	—
11			CONNAUGHT'S PRIDE (Connaught Group) P Hobbs 5-10-13	G Tormey (3)	—
12		2	MAYLIN MAGIC 93 (F Lipscomb) M McCormack 5-10-13	S Curran (3)	—
13			MISTRESS DASHER (Stabling Lane Syndi) M Tweston-Davies 5-10-13	D Walsh (5)	—
14			RED RIVER (Mrs J Melbourne) C Drew 5-10-13	G F Ryan (5)	—
15			BERBER (Albion Inv) K Bailey 4-10-8	T J Murphy (3)	—
16			REPEAT OFFER (D Birch) P Cundell 4-10-8	B Fenton (3)	—
17		2	LOTSCHBERG EXPRESS 33 (A Clapperton) D Gandolfo 4-10-3	Sophie Mitchell (5)	—
18			RAJADORA (L Snook) L Snook 4-10-3	Mrs A Davis	—

BETTING: 5-2 Lotschberg Express, 5-1 Lord Regal, Mistress Dasher, Mayfin Magic, 8-1 Ashtar, 12-1 others.

1995: CREDO BOY 6-10-11 M Moran (5-1) K Bishop 17 ran

Hopes rise for Wincanton

HOPES that today's Wincanton card, featuring the return of champion hurdler Alderbrook, will go ahead have improved.

Clerk of the course, Ian Renton, said yesterday: "I am much more optimistic about our chances. The frost is slowly coming out and the lowest temperature we expect tonight is minus two celcius." Stewards will hold a precautionary inspection at 7.00.

Huntingdon, scheduled for today, was called off yesterday because of frost.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.10 Tenor. 2.45 Sir Tasker. 3.15 Harlequin Walk. 3.45 Gentle Irony. 4.15 Elegantissima. 4.45 Mol Canard.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.15 Jungle Patrol. 4.15 Georgie Boy. 4.45 CORNISH SNOW (nap).

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.10 GREAT EXPECTATIONS HANDICAP
(£2,900: 5f) (10 runners)

101	(9)	1-14	SUPER ROCKY 23 (CD,F,G) R Bastiman 7-10-0	R Bastiman (5)	81
102	(1)	6-06	KALAR 15 (B,CD,F,G) D Chapman 7-9-12	P Fessey (5)	93
103	(8)	15-3	HALF TONE 23 (B,CD,G) R Flower 4-9-11	D Biggs	93
104	(10)	1631	LIFT BOY 19 (CD,F,G) A Moore 7-9-6	Candy Morris	95
105	(2)	0213	DAHYAH 9 (V,C,F,G) G L Moore 5-9-6	S Whitworth	94
106	(5)	2613	THE INSTITUTE BOY 7 (CD,G) Mrs J Cecil 6-9-3	J Weaver	88
107	(3)	0006	TENOR 14 (CD,G) D Nicholls 5-9-3	Alex Greaves	93
108	(7)	-540	JAAZIM 16 (C,G) M Madgwick 5-9-2	A Clark	95
109	(6)	200-	SERIOUS HURRY 131 (B,CD,F) R McKellar 5-9-1	K Slack (7)	90
110	(8)	2060	DISTANT DYNASTY 14 (CD,G,S) B Preece 6-9-0	S Sanders	98

4-1 Half Tone, 9-2 Super Rocky, Lift Boy, 5-1 Dahyah, 11-2 The Institute Boy, 8-1 Tenor, 10-1 Distant Dynasty, 12-1 others.

2.45 BLEAK HOUSE SELLING STAKES
(£2,222: 6f) (9)

201	(4)	2411	SENSE OF PRIORITY 3 (C,D,F,G) D Nicholls 7-9-12	Alex Greaves	89
202	(6)	-142	STAR TALENT 14 (V,C,D,BF,G,S) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-12	R Cochrane	95
203	(9)	0052	OUR SHADEE 7 (V,CD,F,G) K Ivory 6-9-7	C Scally (7)	83
204	(5)	-433	RESPECTABLE JONES 7 (B,CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 10-9-7	M Wigham	81
205	(1)	4435	SIR TASKER 9 (CD,F,G) J L Harris 8-9-7	S Sanders	96
206	(7)	50-0	LONELY VIGIL 23 K Cunningham-Brown 4-9-2	D Biggs	—
207	(3)	4443	FOREMAN 13 (G) W O'Gorman 3-8-6	Emma O'Gorman	88
208	(C)	6020	THE FRISKY FARMER 8 (F) W G M Turner 3-8-6	A Clark	96
209	(8)	000-	LATZIO 66 B Preece 3-8-1	G Bardwell	71

11-4 Sense Of Priority, 3-1 Star Talent, 7-2 Sir Tasker, 5-1 Respectable Jones, 6-1 Our Shadee, Foreman, 14-1 The Frisky Farmer, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: D Loder, 12 winners from 29 runners, 41.4%; N Walker, 6 from 33, 24.2%; D Nicholls, 7 from 31, 22.6%; Lord Huntingdon, 38 from 173, 22.0%; R O'Sullivan, 45 from 271, 17.0%; W O'Gorman, 28 from 165, 17.0%

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 67 winners from 255 rides, 26.3%; J Weaver, 64 from 279, 22.9%; Emma O'Gorman, 32 from 162, 19.8%; Alex Greaves, 8 from 44, 18.2%; R Cochrane, 50 from 284, 17.6%; T Ives, 21 from 120, 17.5%.

3.15 BARNABY RUDGE CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,588: 1m 4f) (9)

301	(6)	00-3	EL ATREVIDO 18 (C,G) N Walker 6-8-12	J Stack (3)	92
302	(7)	0-05	SCROD 14 R Peacock 7-8-10	V Slattery	82
303	(2)	110-	HARLEQUIN WALK 34J (CD,G) R O'Sullivan 5-8-9	D Biggs	86
304	(4)	5236	NORTHERN TRIAL 12 (G) K Burke 8-8-8	T Ashley (7)	80
305	(1)	0-02	JUNGLE PATROL 3 (F) C Murray 4-8-7	M Tebbutt	88
306	(5)	2-60	AWESOME POWER 28 (C,G) J Hills 10-8-6	A Clark	90
307	(9)	0-06	MISTER LAWSON 21 (V,C,F) S Gollan 10-8-6	R Cochrane	—
308	(3)		BEL PROMISE 6J P Webber 7-8-3	N Adams	—
309	(8)	0344	ZUNO FLYER 7 (V) A Moore 4-8-3	M Fenton	90

11-4 Harlequin Walk, 7-2 El Atrevido, 4-1 Jungle Patrol, Zuno Flyer, 7-1 Northern Trial, Awesome Power, 12-1 Bel Promise, 14-1 others.

3.45 CONOCO CENTRAL EUROPEAN FILLIES HANDICAP (£2,914: 1m 2f) (8)

401	(3)	54-0	TADELLAL 49 (CD,BF,G) W G M Turner 5-9-11	M Cotton (7)	94
402	(5)	521-	SHE SAID NO 215 (CD,G) Lord Huntingdon 4-9-9	L Dettori	90
403	(6)	-304	TOTAL RACH 14 (B,CD,F,G) R Ingram 4-9-5	W Woods	98
404	(1)	6100	YOUR MOST WELCOME 3 (CD,G) D Brench Davis 5-9-4	J Weaver	92
405	(8)	0-40	KELLAIRE GIRL 7 (V) A Moore 4-9-0	S Sanders	96
406	(4)	-660	ELLY FLEETFOOT 16 (G) B Meehan 4-8-13	R Cochrane	89
407	(2)	0-00	GENTLE IRONY 12 (B,C,F,G,S) W Musson 4-8-11	G Carter	89
408	(7)	500-	BENJARONG 98 (F,G) R McKellar 4-8-2	T Williams	96

6-4 She Said No, 7-4 Total Rach, 9-2 Tadellal, 10-1 Your Most Welcome, 12-1 Elly Fleetfoot, 14-1 Gentle Irony, 16-1 others

4.15 HARD TIMES MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,469: 7f) (7)

501	(6)	00-3	BARBASON 23 A Moore 4-9-10	Candy Morris	81
502	(3)	003-	JEBI 342 C Murray 6-9-10	M Tebbutt	—
503	(7)	4034	DON'T GET CAUGHT 9 J L Harris 4-9-5	T Ives	(3)
504	(1)		RUBBYATI C Brittain 4-9-5	M Lansen	—
505	(C)		GEORGIE BOY C Dwyer 3-8-7	W Woods	—
506	(5)	4-	ELEGANTISSIMA 86 S Dow 3-8-2	J Quinn	95
507	(4)	00-	LA PERRUCHE 70 Lord Huntingdon 3-8-2	S Sanders	96

11-4 Don't Get Caught, 4-1 Elegantissima, Rubbiyati, 9-2 La Perruche, 5-1 Jebi, 6-1 Barbason, 14-1 Georgie Boy

4.45 NICHOLAS NICKLEBY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,668: 7f) (3)

601	(3)	4-1	CORNISH SNOW 16 (CD,G) D Loder 9-7	L Dettori	90
602	(1)	31-0	CARMARTHEN BAY 22 (C,G) G L Moore 9-4	A Whelan (3)	97
603	(2)	6212	MOI CANARD 5 (CD,BF,F,G) B Pearce 8-10	D R McCabe (3)	(5)

Evens Cornish Snow, 6-4 Moi Canard, 4-1 Carmarthen Bay

Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 2.45 Star Talent. 3.15 Mister Lawson. 3.45 Kellaire Girl

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When your partner makes a mistake, before laying into him think whether you could have helped him to do the right thing. This is another hand from the 1995 Vanderbilt Cup.

Dealer South **Love all** **IMPs**

	♠J9 ♥83 ♦K10984 ♣KQ96	
♠854 ♥AKJ10 ♦AJ3 ♣1072	N W E S	♠2 ♥652 ♦Q7652 ♣AJ85
	♠AKQ10763 ♥Q974 ♦- ♣43	

S	W	N	E
W Root	M Becker	R Pavlicek	R Rubin
3 NT	Pass	4 C	Pass
4 S	All

هكذا في الاصل

Former manager to lead revival

Watford put faith in Taylor to bring back good old days

By David Maddock

THERE is a wise old saying in football that suggests you should never go back. Graham Taylor, the former England manager, has chosen to ignore such advice by accepting the overtures of Watford, the club with whom he first came to national prominence.

A press conference is scheduled for this morning at Vicarage Road, to welcome back Taylor, the only man whom the Watford board interviewed, as the general manager and replacement for Glenn Roeder, the manager who parted company with the club on Tuesday night.

Taylor, 51, took Watford to second place in the old Football League first division, and to an FA Cup Final appearance in 1984 before moving on to manage Aston Villa and then England. He resigned as manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers in November and returns to Watford today with things looking slightly less healthy — Watford are anchored at the foot of the first division, six points adrift of their nearest rivals. The team is at home to Ipswich Town in the League on Saturday.

Negotiations continued late into the afternoon yesterday before the appointment was finally confirmed. Given the hostile nature of the recent publicity he has generated, Taylor has chosen to take a step backwards from the full glare of media attention.

His title of general manager, with a first-team coach taking some of the responsibility for team affairs, is intended to allay some of what Taylor believes has been unfair treatment at the hands of the media.

A brief statement issued by the club last night read: "Graham will have overall responsibility for running all aspects of the club on a day-to-day basis."

His choice as coach is Luther Blissett, who was his centre forward during Watford's most successful period in the mid-1980s. Blissett is already employed by the club in a commercial capacity, and has applied no less than 11 times for a position in coaching. Needless to say, then, that he is highly delighted to be presented with such an opportunity at last.

Taylor, who played for Grimsby Town and then cut his management teeth at Lincoln City, is also taking his former No 2 at Wolverhampton Wanderers back to Watford, yet another Vicarage Road old boy Bobby Downs. Kenny Jackett, also a player from the Eighties, will complete the management team as youth team coach.

One intriguing result of Taylor's return could be a ressurection of the partnership that he formed at the club with Elton John, the pop singer who was chairman of the club for much of the 1980s. Under John, Watford enjoyed a wonderful period of success, and Taylor is hopeful of persuading his former chairman to play a more active role in the club once again, by providing much-needed finance, and perhaps even a return to the board. John is the life president of the Hertfordshire club.

Eoin Jess completed his £2 million transfer to Coventry City yesterday, after further talks with Ron Atkinson, the club's manager. The Midlands club was rather reluctant to unveil its new signing after talks that proved rather more difficult than anticipated. It was left to Roy Aitken, Jess's manager at Aberdeen, to confirm that the deal had been completed.

Jess, a midfield player, will go straight into the squad for the match against Middlesbrough at the weekend.

Manchester City also moved into the transfer market when they secured Scott Hiley, the Birmingham City full back, on a three-month loan. Alan Ball, the manager at Maine Road, said: "I know Scott from my days at Exeter when he was a player under me, and, knowing him as I do, I will be surprised if it doesn't lead to a permanent transfer at the end of the season." Ball is also considering a move for John Hartson, the Arsenal forward.

Sheffield United took action yesterday to prevent the looming possibility of relegation from the Endsleigh Insurance League first division by splashing out £500,000 on Andy Walker, the Scotland and Celtic centre forward. Neil Lennon, a Northern Ireland international playing for Crewe Alexandra of the second divison, confirmed last night that he has turned down an approach from Coventry in favour of a move to Leicester City.

Horton sets sights on transfer boost

By Our Sports Staff

BRIAN HORTON will move into the transfer market to boost Huddersfield Town's promotion and FA Cup prospects. Huddersfield, who allowed a two-goal lead to slip, enabling Wimbledon to force a Cup replay on Saturday, suffered the same setback against Charlton Athletic, rivals in the top echelons of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, on Tuesday, to cost them a valuable two points.

The second-placed Londoners, looking for a sixth successive away league victory to pass a landmark set 61 years ago, fell behind to Andy Booth's fourteenth goal of the season after 16 minutes and Rodney Rowe added another for the Yorkshire side four minutes later.

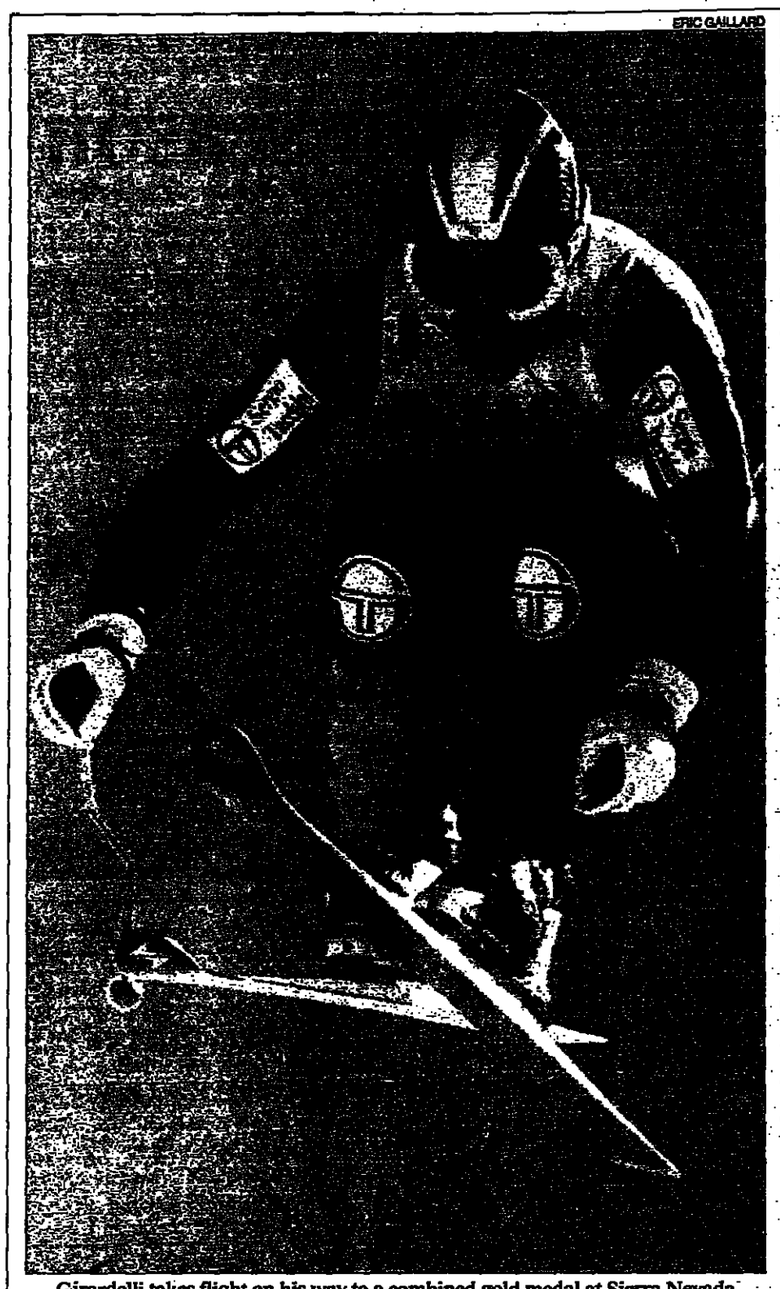
Huddersfield, however, seeking a victory which would have moved them up a place to third, dropped to fifth after Charlton staged a recovery, with Lee Bowyer reducing the deficit after 31 minutes and Mark Robson's penalty 20 minutes later, securing a point.

"They murdered us. They're a very good side and we need a new face to give us a lift," Horton said. He had already been quoted £750,000 for one potential target but he refused to reveal his identity. "We played three players up front and caught Charlton cold and went 2-0 up but then they sussed it and they got back into the game and we had to hang on for a point," Horton said.

Sunderland took advantage of Huddersfield's slip-up to move into third place with a 1-0 victory over Ipswich Town at Roker Park, Craig Russell securing the vital goal three minutes after half-time. Birmingham City, with their sights set on the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg away to Leeds United on Sunday, failed to resurrect their fading promotion hopes with a goalless home draw with Barnsley at St Andrew's. But Crystal Palace, relegated from the top-flight last season, overturned a 2-0 deficit to boost their hopes of gaining a play-off spot with a 3-2 victory over Tranmere Rovers at Prenton Park.

Gary Bennett put Rovers ahead after 13 minutes and John Aldridge, the veteran striker, made it 2-0 12 minutes later with his nineteenth goal of the season. Palace, however, bounced back and Dougie Freedman, Jeroen Boere, the Dutch striker, and Ray Houghton, the veteran Ireland midfield player, sealed an unexpected victory five minutes from time.

West Bromwich Albion boosted their hopes of avoiding relegation and plunged Sheffield United deeper into trouble with a 2-1 win at Bramall Lane.



ERIC GAILLARD

Girardelli takes flight on his way to a combined gold medal at Sierra Nevada

Girardelli back to best

By Our Sports Staff

AFTER 17 years on the World Cup circuit, Marc Girardelli proved that he remains one of the greatest skiers of the modern era when he won the Alpine skiing combined world championship for the third time in Sierra Nevada, Spain yesterday.

Girardelli, 32, from Luxembourg, was 2.42sec behind the leader, Mario Reiter, after the slalom on Tuesday, but secured the gold medal with the fourth-fastest time in the downhill of 1min 52.96sec, to post a combined time of 3min 31.95sec.

The Austrian-born skier won the combined in 1987 and 1989 and now has a haul of 11 world championship medals — four gold, four silver and three bronze — and two Olympic silver medals.

Lasse Kjus, of Norway, the defending and Olympic champion, took the silver medal 0.25sec behind Girardelli and Guenther Mader, from Austria, was third in 3min 32.93sec. Reiter, the slalom specialist from Austria, who finished just out of the medals in fourth, said of Girardelli: "The gold should be his. He is still the best."

Despite his triumph, Girardelli was critical of the downhill course, saying it was not steep and demanding enough for top-level racing. "It's a great feeling to win a race because my season has not been too good," he said, "but the race was a bit of a lottery. This downhill course should have been a cross-country course."

Girardelli needed to use all of his experience to stay in the competition in the slalom when he almost missed a gate in the second run, held under floodlights in the evening in near-blizzard conditions. But he corrected his mistake with the precision and lightning-fast reactions of an accomplished acrobat. "I had a lot of problems with the slalom when I almost crashed out," Girardelli, who won a combined at Veysonnaz, in Switzerland, earlier in the season, said. "I did not expect the gold. I thought the gap to Reiter was too big. But this result has saved my season."

"It is too early to say that I am back, but I am better than I was before," he said referring to his poor recent form.

Kjus was ninth after the slalom — the first race to be held under floodlights at a world championships — but he produced the fastest run of 1min 51.82sec in the downhill to move on to the podium. "I am a bit disappointed," he said. "I was looking to keep my title, but it was a slow gliders' course."

Today, it is the turn of the women to take on the giant slalom course at Sierra Nevada. Martina Ertl, of Germany, has had a week to recover from a training fall and starts as one of the favourites, along with her team-mate, Katja Seizinger, and Anita Wachter, of Austria.

Pinkney to fly home as England injuries multiply

By Our Sports Staff

NICK PINKNEY, the Keighley centre, became the latest England player to pull out of the inaugural rugby league Super League World Nines tournament in Fiji yesterday. Pinkney, 25, has been ruled out of the 16-team tournament, which kicks off in the early hours of this morning, with a stomach virus. He will return home as soon as possible.

England, who lost captain Denis Betts on Tuesday with an ankle injury, do not have time to send for a replacement for Pinkney and will carry on with a 14-man squad. Andy Farrell, of Wigan, has taken over the captaincy and the World Cup finalists should still qualify in the top two from pool B, which also includes Tonga, Canada and Morocco.

Farrell said: "Obviously it is a blow to lose Nick, but we are confident of turning in good performances in the nines championship. The greatest difficulty we will face is the climate.

"We have come from snowstorms in England to temperatures topping 100 degrees. On top of that, the humidity is around 90 per cent and could prove crucial."

If things go as expected, England and Australia, the World Cup-winners, are set to meet in the semi-finals on Saturday morning.

Wales, captained by the hooker, Martin Hall, are in pool D along with Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the Cook Islands, while Ireland face New Zealand, France and Japan in their group. Scotland, who have eight professionals in their squad, appear to face the toughest task to qualify from their section. Their rivals include Australia and Western Samoa. The United States complete the group.

☐ Halifax, who face Leeds in the quarter-final of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup on Sunday, have three players facing disciplinary hearings this evening. A suspension for any of them would mean missing the game at Thrum Hall.

The full back, Mike Umaga, and the winger, John Bentley, were already due to appear before the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee in Leeds for allegedly striking an opponent and an alleged high tackle respectively. Now they are joined by team-mate Michael Jackson, the second row forward, who has been cited by Sheffield Eagles for alleged use of the forearm last Sunday.

☐ Oldham Bears yesterday put nine players — five of them senior professionals — on the transfer list as they prepared for the start of Super League. Ian Sherratt, a prop, Wally Gibson, the full back, Sean Irwin, a centre, and utility forwards, Craig Richards and Ian Green have all been made available for sale, along with Alfie Gouldbourne, Aidie Meade, Michael Prescott and Martin Halkyard.

Early loss fails to halt charge by England

ENGLAND'S women began their Uber Cup badminton campaign with a 4-1 win over Bulgaria in Prague yesterday, despite the loss of the opening match by Joanne Muggeridge, the England No 1. The men beat Poland 5-0 in their match of the Thomas Cup.

It was, however, England's only loss which could prove to be their most significant result. Muggeridge went down 12-11, 2-11, 11-1 to Nely Nedjalkova, 21. Muggeridge displayed her anxiety about qualifying for the Olympics, with ten weeks to go to the cut-off date, in yesterday's error-prone effort. The loss to the world No 87 may affect her world-ranking and consequent place in Atlanta.

Last night, the women had secured a winning 3-0 lead in their second match of these world team championships, against France.

McMillan deal

Boxing: Colin McMillan has signed a "flexible" contract with Panos Eliades and Frank Maloney, promoter and manager respectively of Lennox Lewis, that could win him a world title attempt within three bouts.

A British featherweight title challenge against Jonjo Irwin, of Doncaster, is planned initially — McMillan is mandatory challenger — with a World Boxing Council challenge against Luisito Espinosa, of the Philippines, later. The deal allows McMillan to box for other promoters too.

Hastings hope

American football: Gavin Hastings, former Scotland rugby union captain, who holds a record 56 caps, is expected to be named as kicker for the Scottish Claymores today. "The fact that the announcement is at Murrayfield [home of the Scotland national union game] certainly says something," Wil Wilson, a spokesman said.

Hot Hakkinen

Motor racing: Mika Hakkinen, of Finland, broke the lap record in pre-season practice at Estoril yesterday, three months after fracturing his skull in the Australian Grand Prix. Hakkinen clocked 1min 20.87sec in his McLaren.

Oxford sweep

Rackets: Oxford made a clean sweep against Cambridge in the university match at Queen's Club when they clinched both doubles matches, having already taken a 4-0 lead after the singles.

Defoy steps down

Golf: Craig Defoy has stepped down after ten years as Welsh national golf coach. David Llewellyn, a leading figure in the Welsh World Cup team, is a front runner for the position.

King has bowls crown in sight

By Gordon Allan

MERVYN KING reached the semi-finals of the Churchill Insurance world indoor bowls singles championship for the second year running when he beat Jeremy Henry 7-5, 0-7, 7-5, 7-0 at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

On his previous appearances at this event, King had lost three times to Richard Corsie. This year, Corsie is already out of the tournament, beaten by Henry, and that will serve to encourage King.

"I've never played better here than I did today," King said. "I had a hard game against Stephen Rees in the last round and another against Jeremy today, and that's what you need at this level. Easy wins don't help."

Asked if he thought he could go on to win the title, he replied: "Deep down, yes. But it's all on the day. It always is."

Henry said: "I played better against Mervyn than I did against Richard, but Mervyn was brilliant and if he goes on like that, I can't see anyone stopping him."

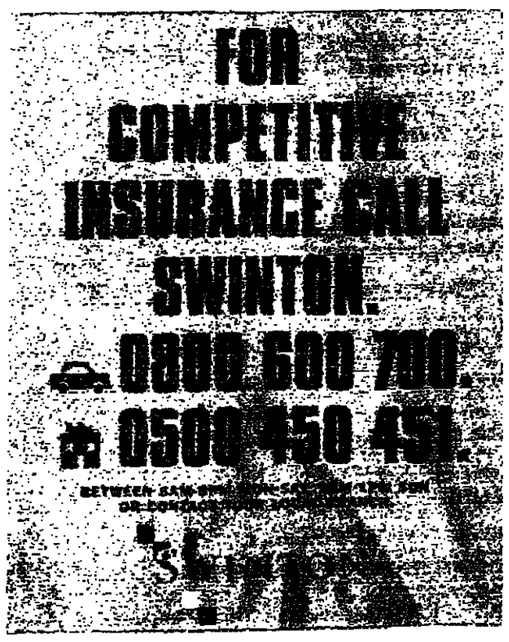
The first set in a match of high quality went to 12 ends, lasting just over an hour, and all scores were ones. King was whitewashed, surprisingly, in the second set, and saved a set lie before winning the third.

He put hardly a bowl wrong in the final set, drawing, running or replacing with equal facility. He opened with a four, all close, even though Henry's first bowl had been excellent, and he picked up three more hard-earned ones to win.

David Gourlay Jr, who plays Greg Harlow in a singles quarter-final today, has an impressive pedigree in bowls. He has won nine indoor titles, a Scottish record, including two with his brother, Ian, and his parents, David and Sarah, both international players, have won world championship and Commonwealth Games gold medals.

He is pleased with his form at Preston, as well he might be, having beaten two past champions, Tony Allcock and John Price. Gary Smith and Andy Thomson were generous in their praise of Gourlay's leading in their pairs match, and Price said somebody would have to play exceptionally well to beat him in the singles. Praise from Caesar.

The quarter-finals will be completed today by Hugh Duff's meeting with Ian Bond. Duff was the 1988 world champion, but Bond was little known outside Devon before he won the English singles last April.



FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

PRAGUE: Thomas Cup. Preliminary round: Group E: Ukraine 5 Czech Republic 0. Group F: Norway 4 Iceland 1. Group G: Jamaica 5 Kazakhstan 0. Suriname 4 Peru 1. Group H: Portugal 3 Slovakia 0; India 5 Wales 0. Group I: Hungary 4 Guatemala 2. Austria 3 Ireland 2. Group J: Scotland 4 Belgium 1. Second round. (Scotland names first): B Foo/Han bt H Fuchs 15-1, 15-5; J Muller bt J Knox 15-6, 15-7; C Robertson lost to P Kristiansen 12-15, 3-15; A Gaw and Robertson bt Fuchs and Kreutzkoch 15-9, 15-4; D Gilmour and K Middlemiss lost to H Scott and Koch 3-15, 15-11, 15-9. Uber Cup: Preliminary round: Group B: Italy 0 India 5. Poland 4 South Africa 1. Group E: Belgium 3 Cyprus 2. Bulgaria 5 Slovakia 0. Group F: Hungary 5 Portugal 0. Group G: Wales 4 Spain 1. Austria 3 Slovenia 2. Second round. Scotland 4 Wales 1. Scotland names first): A Gibson lost to K Morgan 8-11, 2-11; G Martin bt K Howell 11-2, 11-4; E Middlemiss bt P Gardner 11-5, 11-6; J Haldane and Middlemiss bt Morgan and R Phipps 15-3, 15-9; A Stanton/Swan and S Watt bt S Williams and N Groves-Raine 15-2, 15-5.

LAGUEGLIA, Italy: Laiguaglia Trophy (154.5km): 1. F Vandenbroucke (Bel) 3hr 47mn 30sec, 2. R Mass (fr); 3. M Coppolillo (It); 4. G Colombo (It) all same time; 5. J Museeuw (Bel) at 1min 05sec; 6. A Peron (It), 7. A Tchmil (Russ), 8. V Belli (It) same time; 9. E Van Hooydonck (Bel) 1.32, 10 F Casagranda (It) same time.

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham 0 Barnsley 0; Huddersfield 2 Charlton 2; Sheffield United 1 West Bromwich 2; Sunderland 1 Ipswich 0; Tranmere 2 Crystal Palace 3. Postponed: Oldham Athletic v Stoke City; Reading v Southend; Watford v Grimsby. Second division: Blackpool 2 Shrewsbury 1; Bristol City 0 Peterborough 1; Carlisle 3 Swansea 0; Crewe 0 Stockport 1; Rotherham 1 Bournemouth 0; Wrexham 3 Bristol Rovers 2; York 1 Oxford United 0. Postponed: Hull v Chesterfield; Notts County v Brighton; Walsall v Burnley; Wycombe Wanderers v Bradford City. Third division: Cardiff 0 Darlington 2; Hartlepool 0 Doncaster 1; Hereford 1 Chester 0; Northampton 2 Rochdale 1; Plymouth 1 Bury 0; Wigan 2 Scarborough 0. Postponed: Cambridge v Preston; Colchester v Gillingham; Fulham v Leyton Orient; Lincoln v Barnet; Mansfield v Torquay; Scunthorpe v Exeter.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bath City 2 Farnborough 1; Morecambe 2 Northwich 2; Telford 1 Kidderminster 1; Runcorn 0 Gateshead 2 (abandoned at half-time, bad weather). Postponed: Halifax Town v Stourport; Woking v Slough Town.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Dumbarton v Dunfermline; Greenock Morton v Hamilton Academical. Second division: Postponed: Ayr United v Forfar Athletic; Stenhousemuir v Stirling Albion.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Rhyl 3 Llansantffraid 0. League Cup: Quarter-final, second leg: Cefn Druids 1 Flint Town 0.

IRISH LEAGUE COCA-COLA FLOODLIT CUP: Quarter-finals: Crusaders 1 Portadown 6.

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Second round, second replay: Wayside C 2 Waterford 1.

EUROPEAN SUPER CUP: Second leg: Postponed: Ajax v Real Zaragoza.

OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: South America zone. Uruguay 2 Bolivia 0 (at Tandil, Argentina).

UNDER-18 INTERNATIONAL: England 2 Ireland 1 (at Ullesthorpe).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth 4 Millwall 1; Queens Park Rangers 2 Chelsea 1.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Evesham 1 Solihull 0; Leicester 1 Nuneaton 2.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: Second round: Bamber Bridge 0 Radcliffe Borough 0. Unibond first division Cup: Quarter-final: Lancaster 2 Whitley Bay 1.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street 2 Dunston Federation 2. Second division: Bishop Auckland 0 Ashington 0.

JEWSON LEAGUE: First division: Wenlock Town 1 Sommerham Town 0 (abandoned after 44min, snow).

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division Cup: Quarter-final: Westfields 0 Pelsall Villa 2.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Trafford 0 Burscough 1. Division two: Blackpool Mechanics 1 Nelson 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Ryde Sports 4 Portsmouth RN 0.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridport 0 Taunton Town 3. Bristol Manor Farm 0 Brislington 2.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND FOOTBALL ALLIANCE: Pershore Town 1 Willenhall Town 4; Shifnal Town 2 Barwell 0.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Presidents Cup: Fourth round: Hatfield Main 2 Selby Town 3.

SCHOOLS MATCH: English Schools girls Vimto under-16 Trophy: Alun HS, Clwyd 0, Bridgnorth Endowed, Shropshire, 13.

All other matches postponed

HOCKEY

CLUB MATCH: Cancelled: Cambridge University v Army.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Ottawa 7 St Louis 1; Calgary 5 San Jose 3.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: University match: Oxford 6 Cambridge 0 (Oxford names last): R Walker bt M Dawson 15-3, 15-3; 15-4; A Roberts-Miller bt T Bircowe 15-3, 15-9, 15-1; D Pardey bt P Woods-Ballard 15-9, 15-1, 15-5; H Cox bt N Hall 15-10, 15-6, 15-7; Walker and Roberts-Miller bt Dawson and Bircowe 15-13, 15-11, 15-6, 6-15, 6-15, 15-7; Pardey and Cox bt Hall and Woods-Ballard 15-9, 15-1, 15-6, 15-1.

REAL TENNIS

NEWCASTLE: Jesmond Dene championship: Doubles: Lord Hornfield and T Sall bt I Palmer and C Swan 6-4.

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Treorchy v Neath.

WRU MIDWEEK LEAGUE: Pool A: Postponed: Cross Keys v Abercynon.

CLUB MATCHES: Postponed: Mountain Ash v Mar Del Plata (Arg) Cancelled: South Wales Police v Aberavon; Ebbw Vale v Blaina. Oxford University v Penguins; Newcastle v Newcastle University.

ITALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: L'Aquila 28 Rovigo 16; Piacenza 12 Milan 63; Calvisano 18 Treviso 12; Parma 15 Padova 5; Catania 22 Milano 15; Livorno 14 San Dona 18.

SKIING

SIERRA NEVADA, Spain: Men's combined: 1. M Girardelli (Lux) (1min 52.96sec downhill; 50.06sec and 48.93sec slalom) 3min 33.95sec; 2. L Kjus (Nor) (1.51.82, 51.78, 48.60) 3.32.20; 3. G Mader (Austria) (1.52.38, 51.62, 48.93) 3.32.93; 4. M Reiter (Austria) (1.56.42, 49.35, 47.22) 3.32.99; 5. M Kunc (Slovenia) (1.53.28, 51.80, 48.28) 3.33.42; 6. K Aamodt (Nor) (1.52.69, 51.58, 50.05) 3.34.29; 7. T Grandi (Can) (1.55.33, 51.25, 48.79) 3.35.37; 8. F Jagge (Nor) (1.55.97, 51.88,48.05) 3.35.90; 29. G Bell (GB) (1.54.87, 59.00, 54.40) 3.48.27; 41. D Walker (GB) (1.57.39, 1.14.58, 59.70) 4.11.67.

SNOOKER

SWINDON: Sweater Shop International Open (England unless stated): Second round: S Lee bt D Taylor (N Ire) 5-0; R Lawler bt S Hendry (Scot) 5-3; A Robidoux (Can) bt F O'Brien (Ire) 5-2; D Finbow bt M King 5-3. Third round: R Lawler (Eng) bt B Sneddon (Scot) 5-2; S Lee (Eng) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 5-2; K Broughton (Eng) bt C Small (Scot) 5-3; A Robidoux (Can) bt T Drago (Malta) 5-0.

TABLE TENNIS

HANN: European Men's League: Super Division: Germany 4 England 1 (German names first): J Rosskopf bt A Eden 22-20, 21-18; S Fetzner lost to Chen Xinhua 13-21, 17-21, P Franz bt A Cooke 21-13, 16-21, 21-13. Rosskopf and Fetzner bt Eden and Cooke 23-21, 21-15; Rosskopf bt Chen 22-20, 21-16.

TENNIS

ANTWERP: Men's tournament: First round: F Dewulf (Bel) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 6-3, 6-2; A Medvedov (Ukr) bt V Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-1, 6-3; A Voinea (Rom) bt A Costa (Sp) 6-3, 6-1; M Rosset (Switz) bt A Mronz (Ger) 6-1, 6-4.

MEMPHIS: Men's tournament (US unless stated): First round: R Reneberg bt D Rikl 6-1, 6-2; M Tebbutt (Aus) bt K Alami (Mor) 6-3, 6-2; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt T Carbonell (Sp) 6-3, 7-5; J Kroslak (Slovakia) bt D Wheaton 6-4, 6-4; J Grabb bt J Stark 6-3, 3-6, 7-6; C Adams bt V Spadea 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; L Jensen bt S Matsuoka (Japan) 6-3, 7-6. Second round: P Haarhuis (Hol) bt J Tarango 6-2, 6-7, 6-4; M Woodforde (Aus) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 6-3, 6-2; T Martin bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-1, 7-6; C Costa (Sp) bt C Moya (Sp) 7-5, 6-2.

CHERBOURG: ATP Challenger tournament: First round: O Camporese (It) bt T Henman (GB) 6-3, 6-4; N Arazi (Mor) bt J Bates (GB) 6-7, 6-3, 6-2; N Bruno (It) bt C Wilkinson (GB) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

ESSEN, Germany: Women's tournament: First round: M Strandlund (Swe) bt T Jecmenica (Yug) 6-4, 7-6; E Makarova (Russ) bt P Schnyder (Switz) 6-1, 6-1; E Callens (Bel) bt M Schnell (Austria) 4-6, 6-4, 6-1; J Capriati (US) bt K Boogert (Hol) 6-1, 6-2. Second round: A Carlsson (Swe) bt H Sukova (Cz) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; B Rittner (Ger) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-4, 6-4.

OKLAHOMA CITY: Women's tournament (US unless stated): First round: J Kruger (USA) bt S Stafford 6-3, 6-4; L Raymond bt J Yi (China) 6-1, 6-3; A Fauser bt C Cassius (Rom) 6-2, 6-3; F Labat (Arg) bt N Gregorieva (Aus) 6-0, 4-6, 7-5; J Nejedly (Can) bt P Hy-Boulais (Can) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; K Adams bt L Feng (Chi) 2-6, 6-1, 6-3; J Husarova (Slovakia) bt D Graham 6-2, 7-6; A Coetzer (SA) bt T Whitlinger-Jones 7-6, 7-6; L Porun bt I Gorochegui (Arg) 2-6, 6-2, 6-3; K Maleieva (Bul) bt M Vento (Ven) 6-3, 6-0; A Grossman bt A Glass 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; C Rubin bt P Sherer 6-7, 6-3, 7-6.

EASTBOURNE: LTA Men's tournament (GB unless stated): First round: G Galimberti (It) bt N Weal 3-6, 6-1, 7-6; D Flach (US) bt P Loren (US) 6-1, 7-5, 8-2; M Rush (Ven) bt R Matheson 7-5, 7-6; V Liukko (Fin) bt R Wassen (Holl) 5-7, 6-2, 6-4; A Richardson bt M Stadling (Swe) 7-6, 6-0; Haubenger (Switz) bt I Gaudi (It) 7-5, 6-4; M Nawarra (It) wo O Trott (Ger) scr; O Stanoytchev (Bul) bt A Nikirov (Macedonia) 6-4, 6-4; S Humphries bt P Hand 6-7, 7-6, 6-1; C Beecher bt D Draper 6-3, 6-3; D Sapsford bt C Haggard (SA) 6-3, 6-4.

REDBRIDGE: Women's Challenger tournament (GB unless stated): First round: M Mesz (Pol) bt O Ivanova (Russ) 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; C Wood bt S Kamieva (Mold) 7-6, 6-1. Second round: K de Weste (Holl) bt K Quarmby-Eagle (Fr) 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; A Olsza (Pol) bt K Marosi (Hun) 6-0, 6-1.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £3,982.10; 23 £116.20; 22 £8.35; 21 £3.05. Four draws £9.85. 10 homes £279.50. Five aways £1,765.20.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £1,671.65; 23 £40.30; 22 £3.35; 21 £1.35. 10 homes £338.90. Five aways £5.25.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £802.45, 23 £3.15, 22 £1.00. Four draws: £13.00. Eight homes £22.80. Four aways (paid on three) £8.00. Easy six £20.00. Lucky numbers 36 12 30 15 9 20.

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Sub-continent's stand threatens to scatter the field

SHORTING THOUGHTS



TUNKU VARADARAJAN

Sit up and take note of this cricket World Cup, for the international game could be turning a sharp corner.

Do not be distracted by the apparent problems. Do not be distracted by the firecrackers in the stands, by reports of dodgy-dicey-tummy-turning foreign food. Do not be distracted by all that carping about long-distance travel, by Tamil Tigers and Australian pussy-cats, Kalashnikovs in Peshawar and the absence of decent ale in Ahmedabad.

Pay attention instead to the cricket and — in India and Sri Lanka at least — the joyous, cramped, cricket-loving throng. Pay attention to the batting and bowling, and the truly sumptuous fielding of which some modern teams are capable. Every serious follower should want to be there.

But all of that is really just the surface of the story, even the cricket. The real story, the Great Game even, is about much more than this World Cup. It is about the future of cricket and the future of its players.

With this World Cup, the Indian sub-continent has made its bid for the soul of cricket. You could say that that bid was made a long time ago, in the last century, when a flannelled Ranjitsinhji played his first leg glance; or, much later still, in 1971, when Bhagwat Chandrasekhar spun England out at the Oval with bowling that astonished cricket's theologians as much as Ranji's strokes had once done. But those bids were perhaps only gentle ones, romantic gambles that did not quite come off.

Pakistan's greatest modern bowlers, Imran Khan, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, have made much more serious bids for cricket's soul than Ranji and Chandra did. Jack Bannister wrote recently in *Wisden* that their "reverse swing" is arguably the only significant bowling innovation this century. But the audacity of the Pakistani trio's submission to cricket's jury was derided by many who thought — and still think — that "reverse swing" cannot be attained without a bottle top.

But to return to the main point. What the sub-continent has done, or is on the verge of doing, is to make a bid for independence. I say this as an observation of a phenomenon, neither lauding the bid excessively nor scoffing unduly at it. The cricketing Establishment in the older countries — and here I mean England and Australia, South Africa having returned in different garb and temperament — will no doubt regard this bid for independence as a mutiny.

Mutiny: a wondrous, loaded word in the context. The historians among you will smile and observe that the Indian "war of independence" of 1857 is in Britain known only as "the mutiny". Of course, "mutiny" is the more accurate label for that botched and bloody rebellion. But today, in cricket, for "the siege of Lucknow" read "the defence of Colombo".

Ten years ago, even five, the sub-continent's authorities would have capitulated to Australian demands that their match against Sri Lanka in Colombo be shifted to another venue. "*Koi hai?* Shift our match, for God's sake, and *jaldi*!" the Australians would have demanded. "Yes sir, no sir, three bags full sir," the authorities would have replied, obsequiously.

Now, in 1996, the Australians are told that no change can be made. Either play, or go away, forfeit, it's points in the bag for Sri Lanka.

Points in the bag, I say also, for India and Pakistan. Not cricketing points, but moral ones. The sub-continent now says candidly that it is a grown-up member of cricket's community — not makeweights, not apologetic post-colonials, but proper International Cricket Council members who can say "no".

The panic in cricket's older Establishment should not be long in coming. For the sub-continent has now an assertiveness that is backed by a staggering volume of money. It is better able to defend its "interests" than, say, the West Indies were. When the rules were changed some years ago, restricting to one the number of bouncers permitted in a Test-match over, West Indies were impotent: penniless, they rely too heavily on English goodwill and Australian dollars. And in emulating the Australians by their refusal to play in Colombo, West Indies merely confirmed that Jamaica, Guyana, Trinidad, Antigua and all the other islands are but satellites of bigger, louder powers.

The countries of the sub-continent, by contrast, are no longer tied to any interest but their own. Their refusal to budge over the World Cup is a reflection of their political self-confidence. There is as much intensity in this battle as there was in that Ashes series of the past — the one in 1932-33 — when the Australians played cricket for their independence, and Douglas Jardine played cricket to deny them that.

John Bryant is away

Australians shocked by severity of ban on swim coach

BY CRAIG LORD

AUSTRALIAN swimming was in turmoil yesterday after it was announced that although Samantha Riley, the world's best breaststroke swimmer, had escaped punishment after testing positive for a banned painkiller, Scott Volkers, her coach, had been suspended "from all swimming activities" for two years by Fina, the world governing body.

Volkers did not attend training yesterday at the Commercial Club's pool in Brisbane where he coaches, among others, Riley, Susan O'Neill and Elli Overton, all ranked No 1 in the world.

Volkers had admitted giving Riley a prescription headache pill without knowing it contained propoxyphene metabolite, a banned substance, two days before the world short-course championships last December in Brazil, where Riley won the 100 metres and 200 metres breaststroke titles in world-record times. Riley has received no more than "a strong warning."

The sanction on Volkers was widely seen as severe and interpreted to mean that the coach would not be welcome at official competitions. However, Gunnar Werner, honorary secretary of Fina, took a harder line, describing Volkers as "the villain" and stating: "If he has no other job than coaching competitive swimmers, then the ban means that he is unemployed — he has to find another job."

The backlash was immediate. Don Talbot, the Australian team's head coach, said: "This would have one hell of an impact. We are talking about a man's life and livelihood and you just can't do that — I don't think we can stand for that sort of stuff."

Vena Murray, executive director of Australian Swimming Inc (ASI), was seeking "urgent clarification" of the sanction and Werner's words. ASI lawyers suggested that enforcement might prove impossible because of Australian laws against restraint of trade.

Volkers, too, was in touch with his lawyers and is to appeal. "The opinion of Mr Werner and Fina's decision do raise simple questions as to how a sporting body can affect my livelihood and right to work," he said.

His lawyers would raise at appeal "apparent inconsistencies" in Fina's ruling. Why, for example, was Zhou Ming, the Chinese coach, allowed to be at the world short-course championships in the middle of a two-year sanction imposed after two swimmers he had previously claimed to coach had tested positive for steroids? And why, before Volker's case, was the most severe penalty attached for use of the painkiller a ban of three months?

An appeal would first go before the Fina bureau and then, if need be, to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport, in Lausanne.

The Riley case has become a hot topic in the federal election campaign. Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, called Riley to deny a suggestion by the opposition leader, John Howard, that he had crossed her name off the list of nominees for Australia's sportswoman-of-the-year award. Howard repeated his accusation, prompting Keating to announce the award was to go to Riley, a week before the official announcement was due.

First player to span both codes

Devereux joins Sale without leaving Salford

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JOHN DEVEREUX yesterday became the first player in rugby union's open era to span the divide between the rival codes. The former Wales and British Isles centre, who joined Widnes from Bridgend seven years ago, is to play union for Sale in the winter and league for Widnes in the summer.

It remains to be seen whether he will be the first of a flood of players. There may well be many who believe that, with the removal to the summer of the rugby league season, they can cash in on their rugby-playing ability on a year-round basis, but contractual and insurance arrangements may stand in their way.

His contract with Widnes will take precedence for Devereux, 29 and capped 21 times by Wales between 1986-89, but Sale have taken the risk of signing him on a one-year renewable contract, according to which he must play 20 games. "This is an historic signing," Brian Wilkinson, Sale's chief executive, said.

"I believe it will be the first of many such deals, not just for Sale but for other rugby union clubs. We are very conscious of the fact that players must not be overplayed. The Widnes contract takes precedence and clearly we have a responsibility as a rugby union club to make sure we do not send John back burnt out."

Wilkinson, who is discussing with Salford the possibility of another former Wales international, David Young, returning to union on a similar basis, said that Sale would have to avoid the creation of a side dependent upon league players who might be unavailable at a critical stage of the union season. The club is also seeking a new ground, which may lead to playing some games at Salford but, in the long term, could take them to a new leisure complex being planned at Dumplington on the M63 ring road.

Agreements such as Devereux's, unimaginable before last August when the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) changed rugby union's fundamental regulations, are of immediate interest to the Rugby Union Players' Association (Rupa), which was launched at Paddington, in central London, while Devereux was putting pen to paper in Sale.

After extensive talks with the professional bodies who represent footballers, cricketers, rugby league players and jockeys, the formation of Rupa offers union players of whatever status a conduit to a safer sporting future. It is not only for the game's top internationals but also for semi-professionals and amateurs alike.

The notion, born in a Warwickshire public house to Richard Moon, the former Harlequins and England 8 scrum half now representing Walsall, gives players a valuable sounding board over the open game's new realities — transfers, insurance, contracts, vocational skills — while providing a link with national governing bodies.

The rugby unions of England, Wales and Scotland have offered their support. "Players' responsibilities will change in the open game," Bob Rogers, the Rugby Football Union's game regulations officer, said. "Players' involvement is not just in preparing to play and playing, they are now involved in legal and financial matters."

When the IRFB's final draft of the regulations is received, Rogers and Moon will agree their interpretation. "The relationship with the governing body is hugely significant," Moon, a specialist in employment working for a firm of solicitors in Leamington, said. "There is so much uncertainty, players are in limbo."

Rob Andrew, the Newcastle director of coaching, has dismissed reports linking David Campese, the Australia wing, with his club. Campese apparently told a Sydney newspaper that he turned down an offer worth Aus $1 million to join Newcastle. Andrew said of the news: "There's no truth in it whatsoever."

Scotland stick with winning formula

BY MARK SOUSTER

TO LITTLE surprise, Scotland yesterday named the side which started the international against Wales last weekend to play England at Murrayfield on Saturday week, enabling Scott Hastings to win his 61st cap and so equal the Scottish record held by his brother, Gavin. The selectors contemplated retaining Kenny Logan, who replaced the injured Craig Joiner, and recalling Damian Cronin, but opted not to alter a winning team, albeit one which stuttered in Cardiff.

So for the first time since 1990 the Scots will have fielded the same XV during the five nations' championship — an omen, perhaps?

Jim Telfer, the team manager, has been quick to clamp down on the merest hint of complacency. He has always looked for faults and urged improvement, knowing that the side is relatively inexperienced in international terms and that England, despite their apparent problems, will be "a totally formidable side," bolstered by the return of influential Dean Richards, a player who "instinctively does the right thing".

While talk of a grand slam lags heavy in the air, Telfer reinforced the message that Ireland have not beaten England in six meetings since 1984, and in that period "had been even come close". He said: "They [England] are one of the strongest sides in the northern hemisphere, if not the strongest." The manner of victory over France, he begrudgingly admitted, had captured the public's imagination and raised expectations of a victory over England. Asked if that was not a good thing, he said: "It's no good playing entertaining rugby unless you put opponents away, and we haven't."

The video of Scotland's performance in Cardiff has been pored over endlessly in the past few days, viewings which have highlighted inadequacies in the set-piece, and the lineout. On the plus side, Scotland had clicked in places but overall the performance had been disappointing. Gregor Townsend received praise for his running, and criticism for his line kicking.

Looking to the England game, Telfer said: "We haven't gone into a match of such importance with such an inexperienced side. We are aware that the players are quite tired so we have asked them to rest as much as possible, mentally as much as physically."

SCOTLAND (v England, March 2): R J S Shepherd (Melrose); C A Joiner (Melrose), S Hastings (Watsonians), I C Jardine (Stirling County), M Dods (Northampton); G P J Townsend (Northampton), S W Reed-path (Melrose); D I W Hilton (Bath), K D McKenzie (Stirling County), P H Wright (Boroughmuir), R I Wainwright (Watsonians, captain), S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP), G W Weir (Newcastle), I R Smith (Gloucester), E W Peters (Bath). Replacements: K M Logan (Stirling County), C M Chalmers (Melrose), G Armstrong (Newcastle) S Murray (Edinburgh Academicals), A P Burnell (London Scottish).



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Palmer sports the distinctive red belt of the tenth dan in judo, a unique honour for a non-Japanese in the sport

Palmer joins ranks of judo's elite

John Goodbody looks at the British doyen of sport granted a unique honour

For much of the past 30 years, Charles Palmer has been the "Godfather" of British sport. Little has occurred of national importance without his opinion being sought, his decision being required or his action being needed.

When the British Olympic Association (BOA) defied Margaret Thatcher and went to the Moscow Games in 1980, it was Palmer who stiffened the resolve and watched the back of Sir Denis Follows, the BOA chairman. When Palmer succeeded Follows as chairman, he had to deal with a thicket of problems at the 1984 and 1988 Games. As a Sports Council member from 1983 to 1993, he has been in the forefront of the debates over issues such as drugs and the National Lottery.

However, if his contribution to British sport has been considerable, his efforts for judo have been immense and that is why he has been awarded his tenth dan, something that nobody other than a Japanese has ever received.

Members of his own club, the Budokwai in South Kensington, are interrupting training this evening and hanging up their black belts to celebrate at a dinner the unique distinction of their vice-president being able to wear a red belt as tenth dan. It will fit Palmer snugly.

Palmer has the physique of a Japanese sumo wrestler. As a fighter, he rarely weighed less than 15½st for a height of 5ft 8½in, which meant that he was difficult to shift off balance. He led Britain to three successive victories in the annual European championships in the 1950s.

He practised judo in Japan, while he worked as a security officer at the British Embassy in Tokyo. At night, he played cards: "I brought the discipline of judo to poker," he said. "There were never any arguments. I never allowed any."

Despite his fluency in Japanese, he has never endeared himself to the nation that invented the sport. When he was a referee at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, with millions of Japanese watching on television, he threatened to disqualify both heavyweight finalists for passivity.

A year later, he became the first non-Japanese to become president of the International Judo Federation (IJF). The Japanese have never forgiven him. However, the election allowed someone as streetwise as Palmer to cajole the International Olympic Committee (IOC) into giving judo a regular place on the Games programme.

Lord Killanin has compared Palmer with Avery Brundage, Killanin's predecessor as IOC president. "Charles does not deviate from his principles," he said. When Spain refused Taiwan visas for the 1977 world championships, Palmer cancelled the event.

Although this was a laudable stand against political interference in sport, Palmer paid a price. Two years later, the Spanish, Japanese, French and Russians, all of whom bore him grudges, combined with their allies to unseat him as president of the IJF.

However, Palmer has always followed the judo dictum of "falling seven times, getting up eight". He remained as secretary-general of the General Assembly of the International Sports Federations (GAISF) and, when that position became redundant, focused his energy on British sport. At the BOA, he played a key role in modernising an organisation, which previously had been a glorified travel agency. However, his stand against Mrs Thatcher over the 1980 Olympic Games barred him from becoming the Sports Council chairman in 1989 and probably cost him a knighthood. British sport could have benefited from his leadership over the past few years.

Instead, Palmer, now 65, has become an *éminence grise*. The days when he played the drums in a jazz band, spent winters skiing with rare accomplishment, ran gambling casinos, piloted his own plane and drove his Rolls-Royce round Europe, as he spent hours working for the benefit of British and international sport, have largely gone. The distinction of a tenth dan will suit him comfortably.

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FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: First round, replay: Hyde v Leek.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Tooenham v Chalcee (at St Albans FC).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Stoke v Birmingham C (7.0); Newcastle v Nottingham Forest (at Gateshead FC, 8.0), Leeds v Blackburn (7.0). Second division: Grimsby v Blackpool (7.0).

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v BAT.

SCHOOLS MATCH: London Cup: Essex v Buckinghamshire (at Connaught, 11.0); Kent v Middlesex (at Cobdown, 2.0). Inter Town Challenge: Liverpool v Oldham.

RUGBY UNION

Tour match

Moseley v Portugal XV (7.30) .....

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships (Preston).

SNOOKER: Sweater Shop international Open (Swindon)

TENNIS: LTA men's satellite tournament (Eastbourne); LTA woman's challenger tournament (Redbridge).

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
ANDORRA							
Soldeu	110	240	good powder	good	snow	-18	21/2
(Great skiing but very cold with snow falling)							
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	20	110	good powder	fair	snow	-1	21/2
(Excellent skiing on most pistes with powdery snow)							
Obergurgl	40	100	good varied	good	snow	-14	21/2
(Excellent skiing on and off-piste: very cold)							
FRANCE							
Avoriaz	200	250	good powder	good	fog	-10	21/2
(Near-perfect conditions, only sunshine needed)							
Flaine	115	285	good varied	good	fair	-13	20/2
(Excellent skiing on all pistes down to 700m)							
ITALY							
Cervinia	140	360	good powder	good	snow	-7	21/2
(Super snow-conditions but tricky light)							
SWITZERLAND							
C Montana	60	260	good powder	worn	cloud	-3	20/2
(Generally excellent skiing; some worn spots low down)							
Grindelwald	40	110	good varied	fair	snow	-2	21/2
(Great skiing but some worn patches low down)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper

Lawler proves point in impressive style

ROD LAWLER was determined not to be written off as a one-hit wonder. Had he lost in the Sweater Shop International Open snooker tournament yesterday, with the memory of his extraordinary defeat of Stephen Hendry earlier in the event still fresh, he would almost certainly have been, his achievement in disposing of the world No 1 dismissed as a fluke. It was no fluke, it seems, for, having beaten the favourite in Swindon, Lawler moved into the quarter-finals yesterday with a 5-3 victory against Hendry's training partner, Billy Snaddon.

He did so in style, too, coming from 3-1 down with a run of four frames, including consecutive breaks of 79 and 72, to set up a meeting with either Dave Finbow or Gary Ponting in the last eight. His third-round win was, he said, almost as important as his success against Hendry.

"Beating Stephen was a tremendous result for me, but I had to try and capitalise or it would have been wasted work," he said. "I had to dig really deep when I got the chances and concentrate hard. I just had to be professional about it."

Results, page 40

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 39

WORZEL GUMMIDGE

(b) Scarecrow who stands in the Ten-acre Field at Scatterbrook Farm. He comes to life, much to the astonishment of the children Susan and John. Worzel — who speaks with a ripe country accent, carries an old umbrella and has birds nesting in his pockets — becomes involved in many comical adventures.

HAWKEYE PIERCE

(c) Full name Benjamin Franklin Pierce — a madcap American military doctor in the Korean War, created by Richard Hooker for his novel *M.A.S.H.* (the acronym for Mobile Army Surgical Hospital). Hit television series, starring Alan Alda as Hawkeye.

DICK BARTON

(a) Special Agent — muscular hero of the British wireless series which was aired from 1946 to 1951. For a short time the character achieved phenomenal popularity, and three low-budget films and a recent television series were made.

PETER QUINT

(c) The villainous ghost in Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw* (1898). The story concerns two children, Miles and Flora, who are haunted by their former governess and her lover (the manservant, Quint). The story has been dramatised and filmed several times, and also formed the basis of Benjamin Britten's opera, *The Turn of the Screw* (1954).

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qh5! gxh5 (1 ... h6 2 Qxh6! doesn't help) 2 Rg3+ Bg7 3 Rxg7+ Kf8 4 Rxh7 and mate follows.

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هكذا في الاصل

De Silva and Gurusinha lead defeat of Zimbabwe in cavalier style

Sri Lanka swagger under the spotlight

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN COLOMBO

COLOMBO (Zimbabwe won toss): Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by six wickets

THE curtain took time to go up, but when it did Sri Lanka put on a sparkling show and the audience called for more. There were no signs of stage fright yesterday as the competition's co-hosts overwhelmed Zimbabwe to earn their first points on the field of play, winning by six wickets with 13 overs to spare.

No wonder, wags may say, that Australia and West Indies chose not to play here. To score at six runs an over, after losing both openers early on, was an astonishing achievement that will put wind in Sri Lankan sails. De Silva and Gurusinha embroidered their very own magic carpet and flew on it where they wished until the match was almost won. It was fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants batting and rendered the 15,000 crowd almost giddy with pleasure.

De Silva won the man-of-the-match award for his brilliant 91 off 86 balls, the best score by a Sri Lankan in the World Cup, beating the 89 Mahanama made against Pakistan nine years ago. He just shaded the left-hander, Gurusinha, whose innings of 87 included six sixes and ended absurdly when he was run out from mid-on because he was too tired to reach the other end.

Only those famous strikers, Viv Richards and Kapil Dev, have hit as many sixes in a World Cup innings. Richards plundered them when he made 181 against Sri Lanka in 1987 and Kapil's half-dozen illuminated his famous 175 not out against Zimbabwe at Tunbridge Wells in 1983.

De Silva adjusted the rhythm of the innings with the first of his two sixes. Zimbabwe were very much in the game at that stage, Streak having taken those two early wickets, but after De Silva picked up a ball from Lock that was not particularly short and sent it high over the mid-wicket boundary, the balance shifted in Sri Lanka's favour. It was a magnificent stroke.

In 27 overs together, De Silva and Gurusinha added 172, the best stand for any wicket by Sri Lankans in one-day cricket. They were given every assistance by bowlers who contributed no fewer than 23 wides, not a bright performance when their job was to defend a modest total. On this pitch, Zimbabwe should have made many more than 228.

For the second time in a week, their running between the wickets left much to be desired. They lost three men to run-outs against West Indies and another couple went that way yesterday. If Andy Flower was unlucky, brother Grant was the victim of a crass call by Whittall, who is unlikely to be too popular in the dressing-room. At Hyderabad, he was responsible for Campbell's wicket and lost his own after colliding with the bowler.

The decision that ended Andy Flower's innings reflected poorly on Steve Dunne, the New Zealand official, who declined to offer a marginal decision to the third umpire. Had he done so, his original instinct would have been proved misleading. Dunne, the "other" umpire during the recent Melbourne Test when Darrell Hair called Muralitharan for throwing, had an unconvincing day, giving Whittall "in" when he clearly nicked the ball and no-balling Wickremasinghe for a perfectly decent short ball he misconstrued as a bouncer.

Muralitharan got a special cheer when he came on and he bowled sufficiently well to suggest his variation of flight will add a verse or two to the song that spinners are singing in this competition. He earned his wicket, persuading Whittall to drive a ball to long-on without fully getting over the stroke. He was thrifty too, conceding fewer than four runs an over.

Campbell played capably for his 76, but it took the Sri Lankan pair to show what a true pitch it was. With a full swing of the bat, through 180 degrees, Gurusinha hit five of his sixes between long off and long on. The sixth, a pull off Streak, brought up the 100.

After he was run out, De Silva followed, leg-before to Streak. Again Dunne was responsible and again the decision was open to debate. The ball, slanted into the batsman, appeared to be missing leg stump.

De Silva was a happy man afterwards. He has been troubled by a side strain and admitted he was only 90 per cent fit. Of his own form, he said: "I struggled in Australia and I was determined to make runs today. The crowds here have been starved of good cricket and we must thank Zimbabwe for coming, and playing in such a good spirit."

DEXTER CRUEZ



De Silva pulls another ball to the boundary during his thrilling innings of 91 in Colombo yesterday

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE

*†A Flower run out	8
G W Flower run out	15
G J Whittall c Jayasuriya b Muralitharan	35
A D R Campbell c Muralitharan b Vaas	75
A C Waller b Jayasuriya	19
C N Evans not out	39
H H Streak c de Silva b Vaas	15
P A Strang not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 16, w 4, nb 11)	22
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	228

E A Brandes, A P C Lock and S G Peall did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-51, 3-92, 4-160, 5-194, 6-227

BOWLING: Vaas 10-0-30-2, Wickremasinghe 8-0-35-0, Ranatunga 2-0-14-0, Muralitharan 10-0-37-1; Dharmasena 10-0-50-0; Jayasuriya 10-0-44-1

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya b Streak	6
†R S Kaluwitharana c Peall b Streak	0
A P Gurusinha run out	87
P A de Silva low b Streak	91
*A Ranatunga not out	13
H P Tillekeratne not out	7
Extras (lb5, w17, nb3)	25
Total (4 wkts, 37 overs)	229

R S Mahanama, W P U C J Vaas, H D B K Dharmasena, G P Wickremasinghe and M Muralitharan did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-23, 3-195, 4-209

Bowling: Streak 10-0-60-3; Lock 4-0-17-0; Peall 3-0-23-0; Brandes 8-0-35-0; Strang 5-0-43-0; Whittall 2-0-20-0, G W Flower 5-1-26-0

Man of the match: P A de Silva

Umpires: Mehboob Shah (Pakistan) and S G Dunne (New Zealand)

England alarmed by replay howlers

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PESHAWAR

ENGLAND have revived the debate over the iniquities of the third umpire system by raising at official level their concerns over its inconsistent application during the cricket World Cup.

Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, spoke yesterday with John Reid, the international match referee assigned to three of his team's group games, asking him to mediate between the third umpires and the television producer responsible for the slow-motion replays.

Illingworth was irked by the adjudication of a stumping appeal during England's match against United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday. The Emirates batsman was given not out because the only replay displayed on screen was from an inconclusive angle. "There is no point in having a third umpire if the replay shows the stumps and the crease in different frames," Illingworth said. "There was also a run-out in yesterday's New Zealand match that was judged from a head-on angle when the camera at square leg should have been used.

"I am against the replay method but if we are going to have it, then it should be done properly. That not only means the umpires calling for a replay whenever there is a doubt but also the replays being shown from the best available angles."

Illingworth has mixed feelings about the workability of the system, especially since the controversy in Cape Town last month, when the South African umpire, David Orchard, was persuaded by the reaction of players and crowd to change his not-out verdict and call for a replay on the run out of Graham Thorpe.

The system was further undermined in Colombo yesterday when the New Zealand umpire, Steve Dunne, declined to call for a replay before confirming a run-out appeal against the Zimbabwe captain, Andy Flower. When the replay was subsequently shown, Flower had good cause to feel aggrieved and Dunne is likely to receive a stiff reminder of the need to employ the replay facility consistently. There was another problem in Faisalabad on Tuesday, when dust put the television video machines out of action during the South African innings.

Reid has responded positively to Illingworth's approach but warned that, contrary to the wide perception, the discretion for which replay angle to show is held by the television producer. "I shall be speaking to the producer before England begin their game here tomorrow," Reid said. "Some contact between the third umpire and the producers would be helpful."

Reid was a busy man yesterday, as he also issued a general warning to the competing teams that referees are inclining towards suspensions rather than fines to punish indiscipline on the field.



Illingworth: concerned

Reid's view is that fines seldom directly affect the players concerned. Thus far in the competition, however, behaviour by players has been exemplary.

England's sick and injured all declared themselves fit to play in the game against Holland today, with Graeme Hick particularly keen to resume after missing the win over UAE with a hamstring strain.

WORLD CUP DETAILS

Top four in each group qualify for quarter-finals. Two points for a win, one for a tie and no result.

GROUP A

	P	W	T	L	NR	Pts
Sri Lanka	2	2	0	0	0	4
India	2	2	0	0	0	4
West Indies	2	1	0	1	0	2
Kenya	1	0	0	1	0	0
Australia	1	0	0	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	2	0	0	2	0	0

RESULTS: West Indies beat Zimbabwe by 6 wkts, Hyderabad; Sri Lanka beat Australia, Colombo, forfeit; India beat Kenya by 7 wkts, Cuttack; Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 6 wkts, Colombo; India beat West Indies by 5 wkts, Gwalior

FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Australia v Kenya, Visakhapatnam. Feb 25: Sri Lanka v West Indies, Colombo*. Feb 26: Kenya v Zimbabwe, Patna. Feb 27: Australia v India, Bombay. Feb 29: Kenya v West Indies, Pune. Mar 1: Australia v Zimbabwe, Nagpur. Mar 2: India v Sri Lanka, Delhi. Mar 4: West Indies v Australia, Jaipur. Mar 6: India v Zimbabwe, Kanpur. Mar 6: Sri Lanka v Kenya, Kandy.

* West Indies have said they will forfeit this match.

GROUP B

	P	W	T	L	NR	Pts
South Africa	2	2	0	0	0	4
New Zealand	3	2	0	1	0	4
England	2	1	0	1	0	2
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holland	1	0	0	1	0	0
UAE	2	0	0	2	0	0

RESULTS: New Zealand beat England by 11 runs (Abbottabad); South Africa beat UAE by 188 runs; Rawalpindi, New Zealand beat Holland by 119 runs, Vadodara, England beat UAE by 8 wkts, Peshawar; South Africa beat New Zealand by 5 wkts, Faisalabad

FIXTURES: Today: England v Holland, Peshawar. Feb 24: Pakistan v UAE, Gujranwala. Feb 25: England v South Africa Rawalpindi. Feb 26: Pakistan v Holland, Lahore. Feb 27: New Zealand v UAE, Faisalabad. Feb 29: Pakistan v South Africa, Karachi. Mar 1: Holland v UAE, Lahore. Mar 2: Pakistan v England, Karachi. Mar 5: Holland v South Africa, Rawalpindi. Mar 6: Pakistan v New Zealand, Lahore.

QUARTER-FINALS: Mar 9: winner group A v 4th group B, Faisalabad; Mar 8: 3rd group A v runner-up group B, Bangalore. Mar 11: Winner group B v 4th group A, Karachi. Mar 11: 3rd group B v runner-up group A, Madras. SEMI-FINALS: Mar 13: Faisalabad winner v Bangalore winner, Calcutta. Mar 14: Karachi winner v Madras winner, Chandigarh. FINAL: Mar 17: Lahore

Warne afraid of losing flexibility

Simon Wilde's WORLD CUP EXTRAS

SHANE WARNE makes his long-awaited and delayed World Cup debut against Kenya in Vishakhapatnam tomorrow, anxious that his recent inactivity might have affected his spinning fingers. They have been valued at £1 million by Lloyds but no amount of insurance can halt the wear and tear that comes with being the world champion's champion bowler.

Warne has felt discomfort in his right hand for some time, and had another cortisone injection before leaving Australia earlier this month, but believes playing is better than not playing.

"Rest doesn't necessarily work," he said yesterday. "I think rest helps the body but it doesn't help the fingers too much. I think the more I keep going the better. When you leave it and come back it's really hard." A pity then for Warne and Australia, if no one else, that they decided to forfeit their first World Cup match against Sri Lanka.

"I am worried about it long-term," Warne, who is to have a bone-scan after the tournament, said. "The doctors think it is a little bit of arthritis and that there are some torn and stretched ligaments in there, but no one really knows. I'd be reluctant to have any surgery."

Welsh imports

Warne was in expansive mood yesterday and disclosed that he would probably be bowling mostly leg breaks at leg stump tomorrow. On the small ground at Vishakhapatnam, that may be like a red rag to a bull for Steve Tikolo and Maurice Odumbe, the Kenyan stroke-makers who gave India a fright last Sunday.

Tikolo and Odumbe recently played two seasons in the South Wales League — Tikolo for Swansea, Odumbe for Neath — and both gave ample evidence of their hitting abilities. Odumbe averaged nearly 70 in the league in 1992 and Tikolo played a spectacular six-laden innings of 156 not out from 124 balls against a touring Australian club side.

"Steve was an outstanding fielder, a good off-break bowler and a classy batsman," a Swansea club official said yesterday. "He played most bowling well. He was very keen and would probably be still coming over but we are not allowed overseas players any more. Rather like some of those in the Test and County Cricket Board do now, the league thought they harmed home-grown players. Personally, I think it helps to play with top-class players. Some of it must rub off."

Wishing willow

With so many spinners around these days, a lot of batsmen are starting to favour smaller, lighter bats rather than the railway-sleepers that were in vogue when fast bowlers ruled the world. Not so in Colombo, where Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, was presented with a bat measuring 22 feet in length before the match with Zimbabwe. It had been taken round the island for six weeks and covered in the signatures of one million well-wishers. Shane please note: nobody tried to blow it up.

Lara behind

More on Brian Lara versus Sachin Tendulkar. Since Lara broke his world records and laid claim to being the world's best batsman, they have opposed each other in three Test matches and eight one-day internationals, and Tendulkar is well ahead on points. After starting shakily in these matches with scores of 0, 0 and 8, he has passed 50 eight times in 11 innings, including yesterday's scintillating 70 at Gwalior. In the same games, Lara has put together only three half-centuries.

At least there were extenuating circumstances for Lara yesterday. Through a combination of dubious umpiring and slip-shod West Indian fielding, he was denied the chance of a proper innings and Tendulkar effectively had three.

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RADIO CHOICE

The gong that went boom

The British Film Studios: Pinewood. *Radio 4, 12.25pm.*

John Huntley's rapid-fire history of the Man with the Gong's dream factory is excellent as far as it goes. What is leaves out is why Rank stopped making its own films there. I know why because I once worked at Pinewood. There were too many flops. Films were churned out at the speed of factory-canned beans. Huntley concentrates on Rank's boom years. These were the days of *The Red Shoes*, *Geneviève*, the Norman Wisdom comedies, the *Carry Ons* and the Crown Film Unit's marvellous wartime documentaries such as *Western Approaches*. To be fair to Huntley, he does mention a couple of non-Rank failures made, or part-made, at Pinewood, including the endless *Cleopatra* and Chaplin's *A Countess from Hong Kong*.

The Conversion of Jack Tupper. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

Geoffrey Parkinson's play is a tough one all right, in both word and deed. Children, from 6 upwards, should not be allowed within shouting distance of it. And I would apply the same proscription to some grown-ups I know. Having rung the alarm bell, I must tell you that Parkinson's small cast has been given meaty roles which they attack as a starved lion would gobble up a huge joint. The psychologically stunted Tupper is played by that master-of-all roles Christian Rodska. Jenny Funnell plays his abused girlfriend, and Bill Wallis is the lascivious rent collector to whom she pays her dues in kind, not cash.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Dave Pearce 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa I'Anson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, 6.15 the Net 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Collins and Maconie's Hit Parade 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Claire Sturgess, incl 12.15pm The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Kelner 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce, incl at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Judi Spiers 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 For Better or for Worse (6/6) 7.30 David Allen 9.00 Paul Jones 10.00 Shared Experience: The McGarrigles (2/6) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden, incl at 1.30 Pause for Thought 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.05am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl 6.55, 7.55 Racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl 10.35 Euronews 11.30 Gut Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Rescue on Five, incl at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 On the Line 8.05 Women on Top 9.05 SportsAmerica 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 Scott Chisholm 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 Network UK 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Composer of the Month 8.45 Good Books 9.00 News in German 9.15 Sports International 9.45 Sports 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 World Ranking 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Assignment 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack: X-Press 3.00 News in German 3.15 The Learning World 3.30 Network UK 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Network UK 11.45 Health Matters Midnight Newsdesk 12.30am On the Move 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 The Legacy of Colonialism 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Thirty-Minute Drama 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Margaret Howard 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Maggin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, introduced by Andrew McGregor.

S.S. Wesley (String Quartet in E flat); **Schubert** (Symphony No 6 in C); **Vivaldi** (Magnificat in G minor); **Stanford** (Concert Piece, Op 181); **Rossini** (Overture: The Barber of Seville); **Mozart** (Piano Concerto No 4 in E flat).

9.00 Morning Collection. Presented by Catriona Young. **Rameau** (Prologue, 'Les Indes galantes'); **Liszt** (Sunt lachrymae rerum; Marche funèbre; Sursum corda, Années de pèlerinage); **Massenet** (Ne pouvant réprimer les élans de la foi, Hérodiade); **Poulenc** (Sextet for piano and wind quintet).

10.00 Musical Encounters. Presented by Mark Rowlinson: *Artist of the Week:* Christopher Herrick, organ. **Mendelssohn** (Sonata in D, Op 65 No 5); **10.20 Beethoven** (Piano Concerto in E flat, Emperor); **Judith Bingham** (Dove Cottage by Moonlight); **Schumann** (Six Fugues on the Name BACH: Christopher Herrick, organ)

12.00 Composers of the Week: Scottish Romantics. The English Scot: Alexander Mackenzie

1.00pm Opera Matinée: Libuse. Smetana's festival opera in three acts. Sung in Czech, this performance was given last year in the National Theatre, Prague, to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Prague National Theatre Chorus and Orchestra under Oliver Dohnanyi

3.50 Salomon Quartet. Haydn (String Quartet in A, Op 20 No 6; String Quartet in G, Op 33 No 5, 'How Do You Do?'); **Mozart** (String Quartet in G)

5.00 The Music Machine. With Verity Sharp

5.15 In Tune. With David Owen Norris. Including Haydn (Symphony No 104 in D, London)

7.30 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Yoav Talmi; Inger Dam Jensen, soprano, from the City Hall, Perth. **Mozart** (Divertimento in D); **Strauss** (Ständchen; Wiegenlied; Amor; Ich wollt' ein Sträusslein binden; Säusle, liebe Myrthe); **8.15 Monstrous Regiment.** Ranjit Bolt introduces his new interpretation of Juvenal's sixth Satire; **8.35 Rachmaninov** (Symphony No 2 in E minor)

9.45 Mightier than the Sword. William Shakespeare. Presented by John Sessions, John Bird and John Fortune

10.05 Haydn Piano Music. Andrew Wilde, piano. Sonata in C minor; Adagio in F; Sonata in D (r)

10.45 Night Waves. Tony Palmer talks to Anthony Smith about the electronic revolution which is transforming art. Plus a review of Martin Scorsese's new film, *Casino*

11.30-12.30am The BBC Orchestras: BBC Concert Orchestra under Barry Wordsworth and Christopher Adey perform Malcolm Williamson (A Year of Birds; 1995 Prom Commission); **Richard Rodney Bennett** (Symphony No 3: 1987 Three Choirs Festival)

RADIO 4

6.00am-10.00 Cricket World Cup (LW only). England v Holland. Coverage of England's third match in the sixth World Cup from Peshawar, Pakistan, including 7.30-8.15 as FM

10.00-10.15 (LW only) **Daily Service**

10.15-12.00 Cricket World Cup (LW only)

NB: The following are on FM only until 12.00

6.00am News Briefing incl Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport, 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts

9.30 Cause célèbre. In 1989, Pamela Green's Egyptian husband abducted their three children

10.00-10.30 News; A Little of What You Fancy. David Jason stars as Pop Larkin and Pam Ferris as Ma in Eric Pringle's dramatisation of the novel by H. E. Bates (2/6)

10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm The British Film Studios: Pinewood. See Choice 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One. With Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; The Conversion of Jack Tupper. See Choice

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift. With Daire Brehan

4.00 News 4.05 **Kaleidoscope.** Paul Allen reviews the opening of *Frogs*, a touring version of the Aristophanes comedy, and the transfer of David Hare's play *Skylight*

4.45 Short Story: Congress by Posts by Patricia Hannah

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 People Like Us (3/6)

7.00 News

7.05 The Archers

7.20 On the Bhangra Beat (r)

8.00 Analysis. Should wealth creators be freed from heavy social obligations?

8.45 Please Don't Ride Your Bicycle over the Sufferings of My Soul. The writer and producer Adrian Mourby looks at the delicate art of rejecting scripts (r)

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? Presented by Frederick Dove.

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Contractors by John B. Keane (4/10)

11.00 Thirty Minute Theatre: The Chips are Down by American playwright Israel Horovitz who co-stars with Nicky Henson in a comedy of anxiety in New York City.

11.30-12.00 Postcard from Gotham (FM only). This week, the programme comes from New Orleans (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Players. William Hope reads Don DeLillo's novel. Abridged by Ed Thomason (4/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Mason, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Watch out, there's a serial borrower about

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Tracing the origins of **Silent Witness** (BBC1) was not exactly difficult. From the opening scenes last night it was clear we were dealing with the work of a serial borrower.

The trail began in the lecture theatre, with Dr Sam Ryan (Amanda Burton) holding forth on her specialist subject — dead bodies. Horrific pictures of murder scenes flashed through the projector, the images contrasting deliberately with the well rehearsed wisdom she had to impart. "Take your time, the body's going nowhere." Ho ho. She must have got that one out of a *Cracker*.

The lecture over, she walked out into . . . a college quadrangle, all golden stone and well clipped grass. Just like *Inspector Morse*. It turned out to be Cambridge, but it didn't matter. Just think of all those lovely garden parties and organ recitals she'll be able to go to between post mortems.

Three or four rather shocking scenes later (the *Cracker* influence again — hit 'em early and hit 'em hard) the story proper got underway. A little girl had been found dead in a stream. The question was, as it always is, did she fall or was she pushed? Leading the investigation was DI Adams (John McGlynn) helped by the arrestingly attractive and strangely underdressed DC Cox (Ruth Gemmell). A dour detective with a glamorous sidekick — where have we seen that before? Cornwall? *Wycliffe*?

All the above I could forgive, especially as *Silent Witness* turned out to be well written, well acted and well directed. Harry Hook, the director of this two-part story, in particular struck a very effective compromise between style and pace. It looked good and got on with the plot, a rare beast indeed.

But one nasty, nagging doubt remains. If I were Ryan, a pathologist prone to dreams, I'd be having nightmares about it. The "it" being *Dangerfield*, that everyday tale of a Warwickshire police surgeon. How can the same BBC drama department commission both series within months of each other — is it lack of imagination or simple commercial exploitation?

Both series feature actors who became serious stars by playing doctors who heal the sick — Nigel Le Vaillant, who went from *Casualty* to *Dangerfield* and Burton, who prior to last night was best known for *Peak Practice*. In their new incarnations both are still doctors, but they now deal in dead bodies, a career move which allows the plots to be rather more exciting.

The similarities do not stop there. Both are single, attractive (in the same weary, "I'm too busy but" sort of way) and live in pretty farmhouses. In fact they look made for each other — one introduction and they could be sharing coffee mugs and cable-knit jumpers for decades. Alas, *Mendips Mortuary*, television's first cadaver saga, will have to wait. Dangerfield and Ryan are clearly not destined to meet.

"Why didn't the police surgeon certify death?" asked Ryan tetchily, as she strode across a field in one of those unbecoming white boiler suits. "He wasn't happy." That sounds like Dangerfield — probably worrying about which beautiful, unattached woman not to jump on next. "Anyone else touched the body?" she barked a moment later. "Just the police surgeon . . ." Damn the man.

When not just missing Dangerfield, Burton provided an encouraging start to her new screen persona as Ryan — detached and clinically methodical while working, but prone to the occasional emotional outburst to keep us interested and give the trailer department something to work with. The one problem, I suspect, is that this being a "star vehicle" Ryan will end up solving many of the cases herself, which could place the show's carefully assembled credibility under strain.

No doubt the same BBC executives who are now regretting the timing of *Ballykissangel* will be regretting the decision to give Ryan not just an Ulster background, but one rooted in the violence of the troubles. What was presumably planned as historical resonance is once again distressingly contemporary.

On BBC2, unfortunately at exactly the same time, **Under the Sun** was supplying highly watchable evidence that fact is much, much stranger than fiction — especially in America. Each winter, the population of Quartzsite, Arizona, swells from 2,000 to almost one million. What happens to its average age is difficult to calculate.

As Russell England's invigorating and beautifully observed film showed, each winter Quartzsite is invaded by hundreds of thousands of "snowbirds" — elderly people driven south in search of sun. They come in what Americans call RVs (recreational vehicles) and we would call motorised caravans, and park on the desert, creating a sort of chaotic cross between a huge car boot sale and a drive-in old people's home.

But these were not old folk as normally portrayed. The flesh may be weak (four out of five are said to have serious health problems) but the spirit was definitely willing. They were generally drinking, dancing and gambling their way into that good night — and most encouraging it was.

A few came for the peace of the desert ("if I turn my hearing aid up I can hear the coyotes howl") but most came to escape their children (the film was titled *Spending the Kids' Inheritance*) and have as much fun as possible. The men who danced well were the ones to watch apparently. "They can have any woman they like," said one merry and admiring widow. Have, as in . . ? Well, no one was telling. But as one vigorous octogenarian put it: "If the rig's a-rocking, don't come a-knocking."

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (12464)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (30025)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (4752919)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (3833754)
9.45 Kilroy (5895498)
10.30 Good Morning (s) (93261)
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6620735) **12.05pm Tumabout** (s) (9171803)
12.30 Going for a Song (s) (48193)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (37984)
1.30 Regional News and weather (77131706)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (34099067) **2.00 Pebble Mill** (s) (9377938) **2.40 The Flying Doctors** (4577613)
3.30 The New Yogi Bear Show (r) (3029174) **3.35 The Morph Files** (s) (1927071) **3.45 Dinobabies** (s) (7571445) **4.10 Highlander** (Ceefax) (s) (6586735) **4.35 The Really Wild Show** (Ceefax) (s) (6565272) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (2449975) **5.10 Grange Hill** (Ceefax) (s) (1398174)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (796990)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) Weather (261)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (613)
7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (5803)
7.30 EastEnders. Robbie and Tony have something to celebrate, while Phil's worst fears are confirmed when he visits Frank. (Ceefax) (s) (975)
8.00 Alien Empire: Replicators. (2/6) A wildlife series about insects. Tonight, focusing on insect reproduction (Ceefax) (s) (4551)
8.30 The Detectives. Comedy series starring Jasper Carrott and Robert Powell as a pair of dimwitted detectives (Ceefax) (s) (8218)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (4396)
9.30 Silent Witness: Buried Lies. Concluding a two-part story about a forensic pathologist. Starring Amanda Burton (Ceefax) (s) (222025)
10.20 Redcaps. Documentary series about the lives of the men and women whose job it is to police the Army (Ceefax) (s) (125735). **N.I.: 10.20** Spotlight. **10.50** Redcaps **11.20** Question Time **12.20am** FILM: Head Over Heels **1.55** World Indoor Bowls **2.55** Weather. **WALES: 10.20** The Slate (125735) **10.50** Redcaps (894735) **11.20** Question Time (669087) **12.20am** Film: Breaking Point (6624323) **1.50-2.50** World Indoor Bowls (4702217)
10.50 Question Time with David Dimbleby. The panel is Tessa Keswick, Clare Holder and MPs Brian Mawhinney and Tony Benn. (Ceefax) (237367)
11.50 FILM: Breaking Point (1989) starring Corbin Bernsen, Joanna Pacula and John Glover. A Second World War drama about a US Army colonel, one of a few men who knows the plans for D-Day, who is captured by the enemy 72 hours before the event. Will he reveal all? Directed by Peter Markle. (Ceefax) (s) (290236)
1.20am World Indoor Bowls. Highlights from the first pairs semi-final (s) (8218781)
2.20 Weather (2143897)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Disappearing Childhood (2643377) **6.25** Biology (2559984) **6.50** Working with Systems (5757938)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (8064006)
7.30 Stingray (r) (Ceefax) (11990)
8.00 Blue Peter (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7597311)
8.25 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (4278716)
8.30 Open a Door (1967990)
8.40 The Record (s) (2442759)
9.05 Daytime on Two: Science (s) (3810803) **9.30** Lemmexpress (7828367) **9.45** Over the Moon (s) (6373272) **10.00** Playdays (s) (5024984) **10.25** Storytime (s) (8147532) **10.45** Teaching (s) (867716) **11.15** Healthe 3 (s) (3969483) **11.35** Landmarks (Ceefax) (s) (6896006) **12.00** Pathways of Belief (6868193) **12.15pm** Clementine (s) (6389006) **12.30 Working Lunch** (46735) **1.00** Lifeschool (s) (84332174) **1.25** Technology (s) (37114613) **1.40** Numbertime (s) (34097629)
2.00 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (r) (10680735) **2.05 Open a Door** (r) (10689006)
2.10 World Indoor Bowls (9812396). **N.I.: 2.10** A Helping Hand (36210280) **2.25-3.15** N.I. Question Time (9800551)
3.00 News (Ceefax) (2620261) **3.05 Westminster** (Ceefax) (s) (4354984)
4.00 World Indoor Bowls (s) (5280)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. With Avery Brooks (Ceefax) (s) (161667)
6.45 They Who Dare. Two snowboarders hurtle down the slopes of Mont Blanc (s) (668984)
7.00 Waiting for God (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3445)
7.30 First Sight. Policing the Newbury bypass (667). **N.I.: 7.30** Now You're Talking (249819) **7.55-8.00** Our Roving Reporter (300958) **WALES: 7.30** Dad's Army **EAST: 7.30** Matter of Fact **MIDLANDS: 7.30** Midlands Report **NORTH, NORTH EAST, NORTH WEST: 7.30** Close Up North **SOUTH: 7.30** Southern Eye **SOUTH: 7.30** Close Up
8.00 [redacted] Three Colours Cézanne: Green (Ceefax) (s) (2193) **N.I.: 8.00** Personal Visions



Jeremy Clarkson is bereft (8.30pm)

8.30 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson mourns the loss of fast, powerful cars due to falling sales (Ceefax) (s) (8700)
9.00 FILM: Runaway Heart (1987) Husband-and-wife actors Jill Eikenberry and Michael Tucker star as a couple whose failing marriage takes a turn for the unexpected when the latter is kidnapped. Directed by James Frawley (3667)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (877919)
11.15 Cricket — World Cup. Highlights of England v Holland (s) (810613) **12.15 Weather** (7328743) **12.20 Holiday Outings** (r) (5317878)
12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone

Three Colours Cézanne: Green
BBC2, 8.00pm

Those unable to get to the Cézanne exhibition at the London Tate Gallery can do worse than stick with this three-part survey of his career. Last week's programme charted the emotional turmoil of his early work. Tonight we move into the calmer world of his landscapes and still lifes. The camera visits favourite Cézanne locations in northern France and his native Provence and analyses the innovations in form by which Cézanne built an artistic bridge between the Impressionists and 20th-century Cubism. It also reminds us that in his lifetime Cézanne's genius was largely unperceived, not least by the Parisian art establishment. Separation from his wife and the break with his childhood friend, Emile Zola, made his private life no happier. The final programme follows the recurring theme of the bathers.

Blues and Twos: 3-5 On Scene
ITV, 8.30pm

There is a change of direction for the emergency services this time, though the case is no less disturbing. The call for Thames Valley police officers Mairead Kemster and Richard Kempton is not to a fire or a road smash but to the home of a man in his eighties who has not been seen for several weeks. When he eventually answers the door, it emerges that he is dreadfully weak with malnutrition. Attempts by social services to raise him failed because he was unable to get to get to the door in time. He had been in this state for weeks, barely eating and too proud to ask for help. The film is less about the police as such than a system which allowed an elderly person to live by himself in squalor. The officers are visibly upset by the state of the man and his home and there is no happy ending.

Thief Takers: Lie Down With Dragons
ITV, 9.00pm

The Armed Robbery Squad finds itself in the middle of a gang war in London Chinatown as an established Triad outfit comes under threat from an upstart rival. Such is the plotline of this two-parter by Steve Griffiths, who, as a former Hong Kong police inspector, should know what he is writing about. What he cannot do is to prevent the stock portrayal of Chinese villains as snarling, grunting, eye-rolling psychopaths. As a result, it is hard to take sides and the interest lies more with the cops, and particularly Bob Tate (Brendan Coyle). Despite its frequent glimpses into their lives off duty, the series has so far struggled to give its police characters much definition. But choosing Tate, just back from sick leave, for a scary undercover assignment should help us to know him better.

Seasiders
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The perhaps unlikely connection between *Seasiders* and *The House* is that both are about the leisure pursuits of the British, even if the Royal Opera House represents high art and Primrose Valley holiday centre popular culture. The difference between the television series is that while at Covent Garden lots went wrong, the summer season at Primrose Valley has (so far, at least) been relatively smooth going. The nearest we come to a drama in tonight's episode is a Havenmate in tears because she has not been chosen for the end-of-week entertainment. But young Cheri will no doubt dry her eyes and try again. If, however, *Seasiders* has been stronger on observation than revelation it has given an unpatronising insight into how many Britons, despite the counter appeal of package holidays abroad, still choose to spend their spare time. **Peter Waymark**

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2137648)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (3818445)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (5107261)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (1358280)
10.35 This Morning (15216087)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6626919)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3960754)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3945445)
1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (4966174)
2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (57591174)
2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (57510209)
2.50 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (3307532)
3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (2637551)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2636822)
3.30 The Riddlers (1026396) **3.40 Wizadora** (r) (s) (3034006) **3.50 Rupert** (7587006) **4.20 Mike and Angelo** (s) (6577087) **4.45 Reboot II** (Teletext) (s) (7814764)
5.10 A Country Practice (s) (8051990)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (149613)
6.00 Home and Away. Curtis continues to bother Selina (r) (Teletext) (s) (792735)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (950648)



Bowler, Kelsey and King (7.00pm)

7.00 Emmerdale. Dave (Ian Kelsey) and Kim (Claire King) prepare to face Frank (Norman Bowler), and their respective families, now that their affair is public knowledge (Teletext) (s) (1551)
8.00 The Bill: Pointing the Finger. Carver and Skase investigate a vicious assault on an Asian schoolboy. (Teletext) (6919)
8.30 [redacted] Blues and Twos: 3-5 On Scene. (Teletext) (s) (8754)
9.00 [redacted] Thief Takers. (Teletext) (s) (7735)
10.00 News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (13919)
10.30 Regional News and weather (427551)
10.40 Getaways. Travel magazine. Linda Ward walks along the beautiful Tarka Trail in Devon; Anne Gregg experiences sea water therapy in Brittany and Graham Purches experiences the thrills and spills of a gliding holiday in Wiltshire. Plus a postcard from Munich, home of the world famous beer festival (882990)
11.10 On the Line. Live studio discussion of the issues making the news (882464)
11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (747984)
12.40am Carnal Knowledge (1463385)
1.40 Not Fade Away: Samantha Fox (s) (4717149)
2.35 Shift (8444052)
3.35 The Story of Steam (r) (9930781)
4.20 Music Box Profile (47193781)
4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (51859)
5.00 The New Mr & Mrs Show (r) (29762)
5.30 Morning News (32697)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:
6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (950648)
10.40 Under the Dragon's Wing (882990)
11.10-11.40 Tales from the Crypt (882464)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (6634938)
12.55 Emmerdale (3945445)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (84344919)
1.55 Home and Away (56060700)
2.25 Vanessa (57594261)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (2776218)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8051990)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (41280)
10.40 The West at Work. The first of a new series focusing on business and industry in the West (882990)
11.10-11.40 Special Report: Water For Life. With Neil Battersby of the charity Action Water as he travels across India setting up new water supplies for towns and villages (882464)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (3945445)
1.25 Chain Letters (84344919)
1.55 A Country Practice (34096990)
2.20 Vanessa (57595990)
2.50-3.20 High Road (3307532)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8051990)
6.25-7.00 Central News (950648)
10.40 Lady Boss (81397716)
2.35am Shift (8444052)
3.30 Customs Classified (9931410)
4.15 Jobfinder (3024323)
5.20 Asian Eye (1781762)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Chain Letters (3945445)
1.25 Home and Away (84344919)
1.55 Shortland Street (34096990)
2.20 Vanessa (57595990)
2.50-3.20 A Tale of Four Market Towns (3307532)
5.10 Home and Away (8051990)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Crimestoppers (437396)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (629)
6.30-7.00 Getaways (209)
10.40 Film: La Bamba (81397716)
5.00am Freescreen (29762)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Think Tank (5658613) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (23735) **9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (3733700) **9.25 Gamesmaster** (3816087) **9.55 California Dreams** (2644716) **10.20 Biker Mice from Mars** (9302759) **10.45 Mork and Mindy** (9650377) **11.10 The Adventures of Tintin** (3946532) **11.35 The Pink Panther Show** (6881174) **12.00 House to House** (35272) **12.30pm Hullabalioo** (31803) **1.00 Slot Melithrin** (26822) **1.30 The Secrets of Loch Ness** (9750396) **2.25 Channel 4 Racing From Wincanton and Huntingdon** (30166087) **4.30 Travelog** (826) **5.00 5 Pump Uned 5** (8377) **5.30 Countdown** (358) **6.00 Newyddion** (158377) **6.15 Heno** (596984) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (555795) **7.25 Pwy Di Pwy?** (238358) **8.00 Y Ferch Drws Nesa** (7261) **8.30 Newyddion** (6396) **9.00 I Dot** (5377) **10.00 Annie's Bar** (85731) **10.30 Film: Chisum** (72400990) **12.35am Dispatches** (8468912)

CHANNEL

6.35am Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (s) (5658613)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (23735)
9.00 Saved by the Bell (r) (Teletext) (3733700) **9.25 Gamesmaster** (r) (s) (3816087) **9.55 California Dreams** (r) (2644716) **10.20 Biker Mice from Mars** (r) (9302759) **10.45 Mork and Mindy** (r) (789984) **11.15 Tintin** (r) (3954551) **11.35 Pink Panther** (r) (s) (6881174)
12.00 House to House (35272)
12.30pm Sesame Street (s) (22358) **1.30 Hullabalioo** followed by **Chigley** (r) (s) (30174)
2.00 Waterways (r) (s) (57599716)
2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Wincanton and Huntingdon. Live coverage of the **2.35, 3.05, 3.35** and **4.05** races from Wincanton and the **3.20** and **3.50** from Huntingdon (s) (30166087)
4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s) (826)
5.00 Ricki Lake (Teletext) (s) (8080667)
5.45 Terrytoons. Followed by **Murun Buchstansangur** (413700)
6.00 NBA 24/7. Highlights of Houston's visit to San Antonio (s) (241)
6.30 Moviewatch (r) (s) (551)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (352377)
7.50 The Slot (310735)



MS sufferer Anne Mote (8.00pm)

8.00 The Pulse. The final programme of the medical magazine. The thoughts of the controversial health economist Alan Maynard; the findings of a research paper that accuses the Government of manipulating its own rationing formula; and an interview with multiple sclerosis sufferer Anne Mote, who believes she is being denied a powerful new drug because of its cost (Teletext) (s) (7261)
8.30 Food File. A look at the dangers of salt in the British diet (Teletext) (s) (6396)
9.00 [redacted] Seasiders. (4/6) (Teletext) (s) (7006)
9.30 Annie's Bar. Dashwood prepares to make his maiden speech (Teletext) (s) (51667)
10.00 NYPD Blue. Detective Bobby Simone investigates a report of an elderly man flashing at a boy (Teletext) (s) (808629)
10.55 Whose Line is it Anyway? (r) (Teletext) (s) (664532)
11.30 Devil's Advocate. Topical discussion with Darcus Howe (s) (645867)
12.15am Dispatches (r) (Teletext) (4141656)
1.00 Champions: Hot House Tennis. A portrait of four tennis champions attending the Lawn Tennis Association's school at Bisham Abbey in Berkshire (r) (Teletext) (s) (44656)
2.00 FILM: Fair Warning (1937, b/w) starring J. Edward Bromberg. A small-town sheriff investigates the murder of a wealthy mine owner. Directed by Norman Foster (2686025). Ends at **3.15**

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg and Soldiers (66396) **8.00** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (53551) **8.30** Press Your Luck (3229555) **9.00** Love Connection (6736025) **9.30** Court TV (4932261) **10.00** Jeopardy! (1307919) (4637687) **10.40** Jeopardy! (1307919) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (5375735) **12.00** Beechy (70716) **1.00pm** The Waltons (89464) **2.00** Geraldo (40938) **3.00** Court TV (9648) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (5158239) **4.15** Undun (2740342) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (9700) **6.00** The Simpsons (3551) **6.30** Jeopardy! (4803) **7.00** LAPD (1625) **7.30** M*A*S*H (7777) **8.00** Through the Keyhole (5357) **8.30** Animal Practice (6984) **9.00** The Commish (39483) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (98342) **11.00** Melrose Place (65735) **12.00** David Letterman (2510507) **12.45am** The Untouchables (9893385) **1.30** In Living Color (53930) **2.00** Hit Mix (9301912)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (2578025) **8.30** Beyond 2000 (59071) **10.30** ABC Nightline (877001) **11.00** World News and Business (79984) **1.30pm** CBS News (92545) **2.30** Parliament Live (8157377) **3.15** Parliament Live (3371667) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (80218) **7.30** Sportsline (23025) **8.30** Reuters Reports (3714) **11.30** CBS News (77087) **12.30am** ABC World News (99120) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (85575) **2.30** Reuters Reports (17472) **3.30** Parliament Replay (29217) **4.30** CBS News (34852) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (31675)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Jailhouse Rock (1957) (47822) **8.00 Across the Pacific** (1942) (24990) **10.00 Dragonworld** (1993) (82230251) **11.35 Tender is the Night** (1961) (85212990) **2.00pm Sleepless in Seattle** (1993) (23822) **4.00 Match and Sundance: The Early Days** (1979) (2532) **6.00 Dragonworld** (1993) (98729342) **7.40 Up, Up and Away** (1979) (3515919) **8.00 Bad Girls** (1994) (15803) **10.00 Sleepless in Seattle** (1993) (396551) **11.45 Bad Dreams** (1988) (8c0464) **1.10am Out of Darkness** (1994) (8965878) **2.40 Based on an Outlaw Story** (1998) (558858) **4.15-6.00 Butch and Sundance: The Early Days** (1979) (172746)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00am Keep the Wild Wind (1942) (99238342) **8.05 No Man of Her Own** (1950) (57448342) **10.00 Return from the River Kwai** (1989) (97445) **10.05 Bright Lights, Big City** (1988) (2885251) **11.55 Full Metal Jacket** (1987) (4739495) **1.55-3.35am The Diary of a Chambermaid** (1964) (668188)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

8.00am Goldilocks and the Three Bears (1994) (41990) **7.00 The Emperor's New Clothes** (1984) (88808) **8.40 The Snow Queen** (1993) (22532) **10.00 All I Desire** (1953) (93857) **12.00 Much Ado About Nothing** (1993) (45483) **2.00pm Hurricane Smith** (1992) (21464) **4.00 The Snow Queen** (1993) (8174) **5.00 Much Ado About Nothing** (1993) (38700) **8.00 A Few Good Men** (1992) (97104377) **10.20 The Movie Show** () (754261) **10.50 Sleepstranger** (1999) (34045052) **12.30am The Real Story Directed No 6: How I Met My Husband** (1993) (74678) **2.00 Decadence** (1993) (66998) **3.30-5.30 Reade** (1988) (840033)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (82585445) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (41478919) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (80055714) **7.30** Chip 'n' Dale (23272731) **8.00** Cybernaut (77710809) **10.00** FILM: Kids of the Round Table (80361342) **11.30** Ducktales (88002087) **12.00** Ducktales (16897648) **12.30pm** Quack Attack (40780174) **1.00** Quack Attack (94153276) **1.30** Eyewitness (41380700) **2.00** Fearie Tale Theatre (88867484) **3.00** Stobed (41690731) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (88867484) **4.00** Ducktales Attack (88873071) **4.30** Ducktales (88875483) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale (32145826) **5.30** Raw Toonage (88086735) **6.00** Tarzan (88083648) **6.30** Dinosaurs (88974700) **7.00** The Tortoise & (91599782) **7.30** Flipper (98683209) **8.30-10.00** Entertainment Special Boyz II Men (45890819)

EUROSPORT

7.30pm Equestrianism (79716) **8.30** Live Alpine Skiing (84980) **9.30** Eurobill (36261) **10.00** Motors (20858) **11.00** Formula 1 (49342) **11.30** Snowboarding (40071) **12.00** Skiing (8465445) **12.45am** Freestyle Skiing (711358) **1.45** Tennis (25015718) **2.00** Live Tennis (8458260) **6.00** Boxing (56398) **7.00** Tennis (547667) **7.15** Tennis (38204957) **8.30** Skiing (54613) **10.00-12.30am** Tennis (911754)

SKY SPORTS

6.00am Cricket World Cup (4236342) **12.00** Snooker: International Open (5618193) **5.30pm** Wrestling Action Zone (8716) **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (3735) **6.30** World of Rugby Union (4087) **7.00** Cricket World Cup (21090209) **8.55** Sky Sports Centre (279464) **9.00** Snooker: International Open (218984) **12.00** The Rugby Club (88548) **1.00am** World of Speed and Beauty (99168) **1.30** World of Rugby Union (55566) **2.00** Close (8084491) **3.15** Australia v Kenya: Cricket World Cup (16876526)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm The Rugby Club (8560209) **8.00** Senior PGA Golf Suncoast Classic (8546628) **9.00** Golf USA (8549716) **11.00-1.00am** Cricket World Cup: England v Holland (3955193)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** General Christian Entertainment **6.15** Colin Dye/Wale up Europe **6.45-7.00** Music

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5984822) **7.55** As the World Turns (3135735) **8.50** Peyton Place (2508209) **9.20** Days of Our Lives **10.10-11.00** Another World (5168938)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (2967174) **11.30** Roads to Freedom (2888903) **12.00** Discover Your World (8971803) **12.30pm** The Restaurant Show (81709038) **1.00** Around the World (3782667) **1.30** Travel Guide (7520844) **2.00** Sid Spadial (3943358) **3.30-4.00** Kids Down Under (1099396)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Great Days of Our Century: Exodus; Birth of Israel (2881754) **5.00** Memories of 1981 (6421532) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Charlie Chaplin (2807144)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Swamp Thing (1112955) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (3939107) **2.00** FILM: The Thing That Couldn't Die (9085781) **3.30-4.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents (5950491)



Charlie Chaplin is the subject of *Biography* (History Channel, 6pm)

TLC

9.00am True Romance (1588667) **9.30** Grow with Joe (4958377) **10.00** Ted's Country (8921990) **10.30** Our House (1577551) **11.00** The Painted House (6124919) **11.30** Running Repairs (5125648) **12.00** Julia Child (1568603) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (4950193) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (3281498) **1.30** On the Edge (4859464) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (1322174) **2.30** Secret Gardens (1374209) **3.00** Two's Country (1341209) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1379754)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (8500325) **7.30** Neighbours (58812272) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (1567174) **8.30** EastEnders (1568445) **9.00** The Bill (1580025) **9.30** The Sullivans (4958735) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (84812361) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (8586880) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (1580251) **12.30pm** Neighbours (4952551) **1.00** EastEnders (1481416) **1.30** The Bill (4851822) **2.00** The Sullivans (1324532) **2.30** Get Some In! (1376987) **3.00** Angels (1349567) **3.30** Eldorado (1275984) **4.00** Casualty (45524087) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (83524735) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (4394396) **6.25** EastEnders (7056071) **7.00** Eldorado (1355648) **7.30** The Last Song (1357532) **8.00** Get Some In! (1344396) **8.30** Home James (1323803) **9.00** Minder (6903867) **10.00** The Bill (4724803) **10.35** Police Squad (1121006) **11.05** The Sweeney (1735629) **12.10am** Classic Sport (8974238) **1.10** Public Eye (8412687) **2.05-3.00** Shopping (7128675)

TCC

6.00am Barney (52532) **6.30** Tiny TCC Special (70464) **7.00** Pugwall's Summer (41321) **7.30** Hang Time (98358) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (44716) **8.30** The Tick (43087) **9.00** Earthworm Jim (67667) **9.30** Eek the Cat (70829) **10.00** Garfield and Friends (81716) **10.30** Oscar's Orchestra (58551) **11.00** Art Attack (7839548) **11.15** Dish of the Day (7743071) **11.30** Hang Time (62261) **12.00** Degrassi (47803) **12.30pm** Where's Wally (74445) **1.00** Pink Panther (91882) **1.30** Ed and Ted (73716) **2.00-5.00** Madison Special (748280)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Banana Sandwich (73498) **7.00** Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (92903) **7.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (11998) **8.00** Wishbone (13822) **8.30** Rude Dog & the Dweebs (12193) **9.00** Grimmy (98795) **9.30** Clarissa (48735) **10.00** Rugrats (85025) **10.30** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (98759) **11.00** Rocko (25716) **11.30** Doug (26445) **12.00** Sister Sister (23209) **12.30pm** Pete & Pete (43551) **1.00** Capital Critters (91174) **1.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (42822) **2.00** Wishbone (1071) **2.30** Rude Dog & the Dweebs (6808) **3.00** Count Duckula (3006) **3.30** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (5193) **4.00** Rugrats (1700) **4.30** Tales of the Cryptkeeper (7984) **5.00** Sister Sister (8551) **5.30** Nancy Drew (4464) **6.00** Ren & Stimpy (1377) **6.30-7.00** Clarissa (2629)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1358281) **4.30** Lifeboat (1354445) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (1346754) **5.30** Terra X (1378025) **6.00** Tracks Across Africa (1375938) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (9887087) **7.30** Arthur C. Clarke (1355174) **8.00** The Professionals (6981445) **9.00** Top Marques (5137483) **9.30** Science Detectives (4947629) **10.00** Classic Wheels (6904396) **11.00-12.00** Battleship (4544767)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Mesa of Lost Women (7381838) **1.30pm** Honey West (4946890) **2.00** Department S (8926445) **3.00** The Buccaneers (1338735) **3.30** William Tell (1366280) **4.00** FILM: Inherit the Wind (4812174) **6.30** Department S (9701613) **7.30** The Green Hornet (1279700) **8.00** Planet of the Apes (6905071) **9.00** Twin Peaks (6998735) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Night of the Comet (5115261)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Beauty and the Beast (77687) **8.00** Entertainment Tonight (4735) **8.30** Wings (7782) **9.00** Soap (38280) **9.30** Laverne and Shirley (30087) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (24838) **10.30** Dr Katz (48218) **11.00** Ren & Stimpy (40025) **11.30** The Guyver (81209) **12.00** Rocky and Bullwinkle (78120) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (39743) **1.00** Wings (80410) **1.30** Soap (55546) **2.00** Laverne and Shirley (91101) **2.30** Entertainment Tonight (10236) **3.00** Dr Katz (77946) **3.30-4.00** Ren and Stimpy (42548)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (7484483) **7.00** Kilroy (7579918) **8.00** Esther (9197795) **8.30** Front Gardens (8520476) **9.00** Gourmet Ireland (8923241) **9.35** Kate and Allie (2321087) **10.05** Jerry Springer (8832342) **11.00** Young and Restless (8729071) **11.55** Brookside (7372261) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (3247367) **1.25** Crossways (8326838) **2.00** Agony Hour (8004756) **3.00** Budget Banquets (7905377) **3.30** Looking Good (9639822) **4.00** Infatuation UK (9825629) **4.30** Crossways (6870209) **5.05** Lingo (26811989) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (9638193) **6.00** Bewitched (9635006) **6.30** Brookside (6706551) **7.05** Cook's Tour of France II (8921848) **7.40** Young and Restless (8074890) **8.40** FILM: Women of Brewster Place (11632715) **11.55-12.00** Entertainment (6962484)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Ocean Odyssey (1667) **5.30** Adventures of Tintin (952629) **5.55** Batman (528938) **6.30** Catchphrase (8445) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (1803) **7.30** My Two Dads (4629) **8.00** Mckenna (99803) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: The Best Man to Die (19857) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (12754) **11.00** Cats Eyes (15071) **12.00** The Adventures of Tintin (23694) **12.30am** Bordertown (84217) **1.00** Batman (28236) **1.30** Zorro (40304) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (44217) **2.30** African Skies (56052) **3.00** Zorro (73912) **3.30** Big Brother Jake (47304) **4.00** African Skies (58897) **4.30-5.00** Ocean Odyssey (23471)

MTV

6.30am The Grind (72822) **7

هكذا في الاصل

Emphatic victory for India exposes the lack of strength in West Indies' batting

Honours go to Tendulkar in battle of greats

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GWALIOR (West Indies won toss): India (2pts) beat West Indies by five wickets

THE first glamour game of the World Cup did not live up to its demanding billing but it was instructive for all that. India, roared to a resounding victory by a partisan 30,000-strong crowd, may be good enough to get by if and when Sachin Tendulkar fails, but West Indies' unhealthy dependance upon Brian Lara will surely be their downfall.

Lara might have been unlucky yesterday. He was out for only two when the umpire, Khizar Hayat, of Pakistan, adjudged there was bat as well as pad in his deflection down the leg side off Javagal Srinath. It was a dubious decision and Lara stood at the crease for a while, but it was such a devastating blow to West Indies that their self-belief instantly vanished.

Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, said: "Maybe the umpire thought Lara was out, but I thought differently, the batsman thought differently and most of you watching must also have thought differently. I am disappointed at the result because I don't think our batting is so weak to be bowled out for 173."

Yesterday's evidence, however, suggests that, without Lara, West Indies no longer have the strength of batting to trouble the best. A total of 173 looked woefully inadequate on a blameless pitch and, although the Indians stumbled twice in their reply, superior depth and conviction was decisive. Amid flares, firecrackers and typical Indian delirium, the hosts won with 62 balls in hand and remain favourites to win Group A and, quite possibly, to meet England in the last eight.

Lara has some catching up to do if he is to take the batting honours in this competition. Tendulkar followed his unbeaten century against Kenya with 70 under the new Gwalior floodlights and, though it was blemished by two dropped catches — one of them unbelievably spilled by Browne, the wicketkeeper — it was another innings of breath-taking quality.

Tendulkar plays strokes off the back foot that are the province of an elite few. His footwork is nimble and economical, his balance flawless and he threads the ball through the outfielders with rare precision. It seems inconceivable that he is still only 22; the game has no boundaries for him in the coming decade.

Crucially, however, India have other jewels in their collection and two of them are bowlers. Srinath's opening spell yesterday brought him two for 14 from seven overs and he was not flattered, while three more wickets for Anil Kumble indicated that he will be a rival to Shane Warne as the most influential spin bowler in the tournament.

Richardson had won an important toss and declared before play that he considered 300 a reasonable target. With Campbell and Lara gone inside six overs, he was soon revising his estimate, but 47 from Richardson and 38 from Chanderpaul revived the innings before three wickets fell for eight in the middle overs.

Thereafter, damage limitation was the best to which West Indies could aspire. India fielded more positively than of old and their performance was marred only by a tardy over rate and some over-zealous appealing.

If West Indies were to have a chance, Curtly Ambrose had to strike early. He did not let them down, bowling Jadeja in his first over and Sidhu in his third. But their discipline faltered with a stream of no-balls as Tendulkar and his captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, looked to have taken the game beyond them with a third-wicket stand of 79 in 16 overs.

"Tendulkar was great and I hope he continues like this," Azharuddin said. "I was not upset when Jadeja and Sidhu got out early. I, myself, may have gone to a poor shot but by then I was sure we'd win."

India betrayed signs of complacency when three wickets were foolishly sacrificed, the worst of them Tendulkar's run-out in a rare loss of understanding with his old school mate, Vinod Kambli. At 127 for five there was a hint of the exciting finish this event still awaits, but Kambli and Mongia dispelled the thought, at first calmly and then with a rush of heady strokes.

WILLS WORLD CUP 1996

Sri Lanka sparkle 42
World Cup Extras 42


AJIT KUMAR

Lara, the West Indies batsman, walks dejectedly away after his controversial dismissal for only two runs while India celebrate yesterday

GWALIOR (West Indies won toss): India beat West Indies by five wickets

WEST INDIES	
S C Campbell b Srinath	5
*R B Richardson c Kambli b Prabhakar	47
B C Lara c Mongia b Srinath	2
S Chanderpaul c Azharuddin b Kapoor	38
R I C Holder b Kumble	0
R A Harper b Kumble	23
†C O Browne b Prabhakar	18
O D Gibson b Kumble	6
I A Bishop run out	9
C E L Ambrose c Kumble b Prabhakar	8
C A Walsh not out	9
Extras (lb 2, w 5, nb 1)	8
Total (50 overs)	173

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-24, 3-91, 4-99, 5-99, 6-141, 7-141, 8-149, 9-162.

BOWLING: Prabhakar 10-0-39-3; Srinath 10-0-22-2; Kumble 10-0-35-3; Venkatesh Prasad 10-0-34-0; Kapoor 10-2-41-1.

INDIA	
A D Jadeja b Ambrose	1
S R Tendulkar run out	70
N S Sidhu b Ambrose	1
*M Azharuddin c Walsh b Harper	32
V G Kambli not out	33
M Prabhakar c and b Harper	1
N R Mongia not out	24
Extras (lb3, w1, nb8)	12
Total (5 wkts, 39.4 overs)	174

A R Kumble, J Srinath, V Prasad and A R Kapoor did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-15, 3-94, 4-125, 5-127.

BOWLING: Ambrose 8-1-41-2; Walsh 9-3-18-0; Bishop 5-0-28-0; Gibson 8.4-0-50-0; Harper 9-1-34-2

Man-of-the-match: S R Tendulkar

Umpires: Khizer Hayat (Pakistan) and I Robinson (Zimbabwe)

Reeve takes positive approach

DERMOT REEVE arrived in Pakistan last night in time to join up with England's cricket World Cup party on the eve of their match with Holland, in Peshawar, and admitted that he thought he had played his last game for England (Simon Wilde writes). Now he knows he has the chance, as the central all-rounder, to play a key part in his team's hopes of a successful campaign.

Reeve's arrival, to replace the injured Craig White, restores the England squad to 14 fit players, with Graeme Hick, Neil Smith and Robin Smith having all recovered from their recent ailments. England yesterday declined to disclose the make-up of their team to face Holland.

As expected, Reeve, who was not considered for the Holland match, was in bullish mood. "I honestly believe England can win the World Cup," he said. "We've got a very talented batting side and if the guys fire they can beat anyone. I'm not banking on playing every game. I may not play one game. But I'm in the frame of mind to play whenever I'm wanted.

"I was obviously disappointed last month at not being selected for the World Cup and I didn't think I would play for England again. But now I'm excited to be here."

Reeve, 32, expressed his unhappiness after he was picked for only two of the seven one-day internationals in South Africa and then omitted from the original World Cup squad.

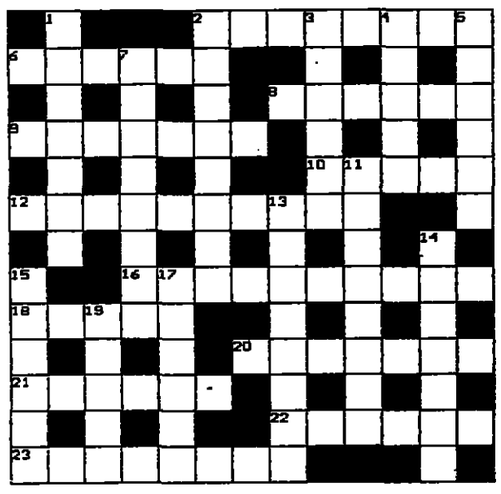
"You are not going to be jumping up and down or doing handstands when your heart was set on something," he said. "It was the lowest point of my cricket career."

The two teams most likely to stand in England's way when the competition reaches its knockout stage yesterday produced performances of impressive quality, Sri Lanka brushing aside Zimbabwe and India outplaying West Indies.

Taylor returns 40
Horton to spend 40

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 711 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
2 Improvident optimist (*Copperfield*) (8)
6 Conquer, put down (6)
8 Manage to get (6)
9 Shows exuberance; Millais picture (7)
10 Of the nose (5)
12 Convenience store (6,4)
16 State of holding office (10)
18 (Ill-gotten) money (5)
20 Unlawful (7)
21 Unequalled (6)
22 No. of Israel tribes, of apostles (6)
23 Boston, Mad Hatter both had one (3,5)

DOWN
1 Unfairly taken advantage of (3-4)
2 Sudden, dramatic (rise) (8)
3 (Animal) lacking normal pigment (6)
4 Sc. hillsides; sounds like *harsh cries* (5)
5 Cause continued resentment (6)
7 Carefree and confident (8)
11 Desire (esp. for food) (8)
13 Lowliness (8)
14 Have success (with) (7)
15 Proudly display (6)
17 Cloud (of stars) (6)
19 Country; Cockney mate (5)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UKs second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrows second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.
All flights are subject to availability.

British Midland

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

SOLUTION TO NO 710
ACROSS: 1 Surprise 5 Slug 9 Admin 10 Shotgun 11 Bolshoi 12 Torch 13 Reprehend 18 Lapse 20 Horatio 22 Stopgap 23 Venus 24 Abed 25 Plangent
DOWN: 1 Shabby 2 Rambler 3 Ranch 4 Sistine Chapel 6 Lager 7 Gung-ho 8 Bottle 14 Pledge 15 Detente 16 Alaska 17 Cosset 19 Prone 21 Raven

Capriati returns the winning way

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JENNIFER CAPRIATI'S much-anticipated return to the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Tour circuit produced a victory achieved without undue exertion in Essen, Germany, yesterday.

Capriati, 19, has endured a prolonged process of recovery from burn-out and the effects of drugs, but yesterday she made light of her troubles in casting aside the challenge of Kristie Boogert, of Holland, 6-1, 6-2 in only 51 minutes.

The American, who dropped out of competitive tennis after defeat in the first round of the 1993 US Open, made up for bouts of apparent nervousness and a tentative service by producing a succession of precise returns and double-handed backhand winners.

Boogert, who was the seventh seed at the Essen tournament and who is ranked No 32 in the world, was unable to find her rhythm at any stage. "It was fun out there," Capriati said after her first competitive match in 15 months. "It meant the world to me. I felt happy and I was happy with my playing."

Despite appearing tense during the match, Capriati smiled broadly and punched the air after concluding a triumphant comeback. Her return had been scheduled for last week at the Paris Open but she withdrew at the last minute, giving the reason as a strained hip muscle.

She accepted a wild-card invitation to play in the indoor event at Essen, where she now meets Barbara Schett, a 19-year-old Austrian ranked No 56 on the WTA list.

Capriati had lost weight and seemed in better playing condition than in November 1994, when she aborted a comeback after losing in three sets to Anke Huber, of Germany, in Philadelphia.

However, a long struggle awaits the former teenage prodigy once ranked No 6 in the world. Unlike Monica Seles, Capriati was afforded no privileges on her return by the WTA and she will have to work her way up from the bottom of the rankings.

Yesterday she began that process by breaking Boogert's service to love and moving swiftly into a 3-0 lead. After dropping her service to let Boogert back into the match, Capriati used her powerful backhand to good effect in taking the next three games and the first set. She eventually ran out the winner on her first match point, when Boogert sent a return wide.


Capriati: nervousness

"The way she was playing today, she was hitting the ball great," Boogert said. "I think she's going to make a very good comeback."

McGrath leaves FAI in quandary

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ONCE a model of success borne of consistency and continuity, the foundations of Irish football have suddenly begun to crumble. Hard on the heels of the resignation of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) chief executive last week, the FAI's director of coaching, Joe McGrath, announced yesterday that he is leaving to take up a similar post in New Zealand.

McGrath informed the FAI of his plans just hours before its executive council was due to meet in Dublin last night to discuss the departure of the chief executive, Sean Connelly, six days ago. It was also due to review the handling of Jack Charlton's resignation as the Ireland coach in December and the search for his successor.

Mick McCarthy was appointed Ireland manager earlier this month, but within 24 hours of the appointment, the FAI president, Louis Kilcoyne, said that the former Ireland captain had not been his first choice to fill the post. Allegations surrounding a shortfall of money from the FAI's allocation of tickets for the 1994 World Cup finals are also expected to be debated.

Caledonian Thistle's Tennents Scottish Cup quarter-final against Rangers has been switched to Dundee United's Tannadice ground, but Rangers will visit Inverness in 1996. The Scottish champions have agreed to send a team at the start of next season to mark the opening of Caledonian's new £3.5 million stadium in Inverness as compensation for the Bell's Scottish League third division club, which had hoped the cup-tie on Saturday, March 9 would be the last played at its 5,500-capacity Telford Street ground. The Scottish Football Association had ruled against Rangers visiting for safety reasons and also blocked any chance of a lucrative switch to Ibrox.

"Tannadice was the suggestion, with the fact that it has undersoil heating a major factor," the Thistle chairman, Doug McGilvray, said. "We wanted the game to go ahead in Inverness at Telford Street, but that will not be possible. Now we will go to Dundee, with Rangers having 5,000 tickets and us taking 7,500, which I am convinced will be sold very quickly.

"However, Rangers have made a marvellous gesture to us by agreeing to send a team north in September or October next season to mark the opening of our new stadium. It means football fans in this area will get the chance to see Caledonian Thistle against Rangers in Inverness as we would have wished."

England's tour to the Far East before the European championship finals get under way in the summer has been confirmed by the Football Association. England will play China A in Peking on Thursday, May 23, and then a Hong Kong Select XI in the colony three days later. The England squad will fly out for the brief tour on May 20, returning to this country on May 28.

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the Republicans' unity

'Sister is the planner of victorious campaign

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WHEN America's top television talk-show host wanted some swift reaction from the winner's enclosure in New Hampshire, it was Bay Buchanan who made herself immediately available to appear on *Larry King Live*.

In measured tones, the sister of Pat Buchanan told the millions who watch Mr King's nightly spot that the stunning result had proved beyond doubt the widespread appeal of her brother's conservatism of the heart.

"He's reached out to those millions of Americans who are working out there who are concerned about their jobs," she said. "He speaks to them directly about it, and they recognise a real leader when they see one."

Among her campaign staff, many might say exactly the same about Angela "Bay" Buchanan, adviser and field general to the man of the moment. She is the only woman in charge of a presidential campaign in America and appears, to those on the outside at least, ill placed at the helm of a ship whose family, faith and country campaign seems entirely inhospitable to women such as herself.



Bay Buchanan: "Pat wants me at the helm"

Bay Buchanan is a divorced woman bringing up three young sons on her own; has a full-time job; and left the Catholic Church for the Tabernacle when she married a Mormon lawyer. Indeed, she might be viewed as a typical example of mainline feminism rather than her brother's perception of the traditional woman.

But that remains the paradox in the relationship between Buchanan brother and sister — a highly successful combination which has been compared to Bobby Kennedy and JFK, and one which has carved a neat impression of family unity on a campaign that values family above all else.

Behind the scenes, the image is a little different. Ms Buchanan is accused of micromanaging every detail and keeping both dissent, and access to Pat himself, to a minimum. She is very tough, according to close associates, and ideas other than her own are often ignored.

An obsession with politics started early and she worked closely with her brother on the Nixon campaign. In 1981, having worked as treasurer for his campaign, Ronald Reagan appointed her the youngest ever Treasurer of the United States.

Six years ago she ran for California state treasurer, losing in the Republican primary. It was Bay Buchanan who insisted her brother should stand in 1992 and helped to orchestrate his notorious appearance at the Republican convention in Houston, where he unleashed his guns in the cultural war for America.

Before he entered the race for 1996, the conservative commentator made certain Bay would be by his side. "Pat says 'Where are you going to be?' because he wants me at the helm, and that's the bottom line," she said recently. "He runs if I will do this, and it's a sacrifice for me, and it's one that I've enjoyed thoroughly."

Now she is supporting a man who has written that the birthrate of 1.7 children to each Western woman, compared to the free fertility of the "black, brown and yellow peoples" amounts to "racial suicide", who declared that "The momma bird builds the nest".

Ms Buchanan, however, rarely counters his more outspoken statements. She has little time for what she deems a liberal stereotype of the conservative woman cooking in the kitchen. For many American conservatives under the Buchanan banner, family values are no longer an opposition to women working outside the home, but to homosexual rights, abortion, and secular curriculums in the classroom.

One Buchanan not suitable as White House role model

BY LEYLA LINTON

AMERICA has already had a President Buchanan — a Democrat who presided over the collapse of the Union and accelerated the outbreak of Civil War in 1861.

Like his namesake, James Buchanan was of Irish stock. The son of a merchant farmer, the fifteenth President of the United States was born in Pennsylvania.

But in contrast to flamboyant Pat Buchanan, James Buchanan, the only unmarried American President, was so quiet that during his 1856 election campaign Republicans joked that he was dead of lockjaw.

Pat Buchanan will certainly not seek to emulate his namesake. Not only was James Buchanan's presidency a professional disaster, he was also homosexual. He had an affair with William Rufus King, who later became Vice-President to James Buchanan's predecessor in the presidency.



James Buchanan: saw collapse of the Union

Buchanan had a long career in public service. He was elected to the Senate in 1834 and unsuccessfully sought the presidential nomination in 1844, 1848 and 1852. He was eventually elected President by a narrow margin after convincing Southern planters, who controlled the Democratic Party, of his support for slavery.

A slave-owner himself, Buchanan was best known for his support of pro-slavers in the mini-Civil War in Kansas, known as "Bleeding Kansas", which was at its height between 1854 and 1856. As President, he faced a financial crisis as well as the anti-slavery struggle that he tried unsuccessfully to keep out of national politics.

Dr Eric Halpern, a lecturer in American history at University College London, said: "He was a fairly lacklustre politician: the wrong man in the right place." Towards the end of his tenure, Buchanan lamented to his friend, General Winfield Scott: "The office of President of the United States is not fit for a gentleman to hold."

Eventually he was undermined by a split in his party which led to the election of the Republican Abraham Lincoln as President in 1860. With the Southern states' secession, the Civil War followed in the next year.

Buchanan retired discredited, but sought to support the Union cause until his death in 1868. Dr Mark Kaplanoff, of Cambridge University, said: "He was an ineffectual man who hastened the coming of the Civil War."



Snoop Doggy Dog, right, is hugged by his bodyguard, McKinley Lee, after both were acquitted of murder

Mistakes help to clear rap singer in murder trial

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

LOS ANGELES prosecutors have lost another high-profile case with the acquittal of a street-tough black musician who was charged with murder.

Snoop Doggy Dog, a rap singer whose songs are full of references to violence and drugs, was cleared of the murder in 1993 of a rival gang member.

One of the defence lawyers in the case was Johnnie Cochran, the lead attorney in last year's O.J. Simpson trial. Snoop Doggy Dog, charged under his real name, Calvin Broadus, faces a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter in connection with the 1993 shooting, but his acquittal for murder revived memories of the Simpson and Rodney King cases.

The 6ft 4in singer and his bodyguard were accused of murdering Philip Woldemariam, a 20-year-old Ethiopian hoodlum, after he made a rude gesture to them one hot August night.

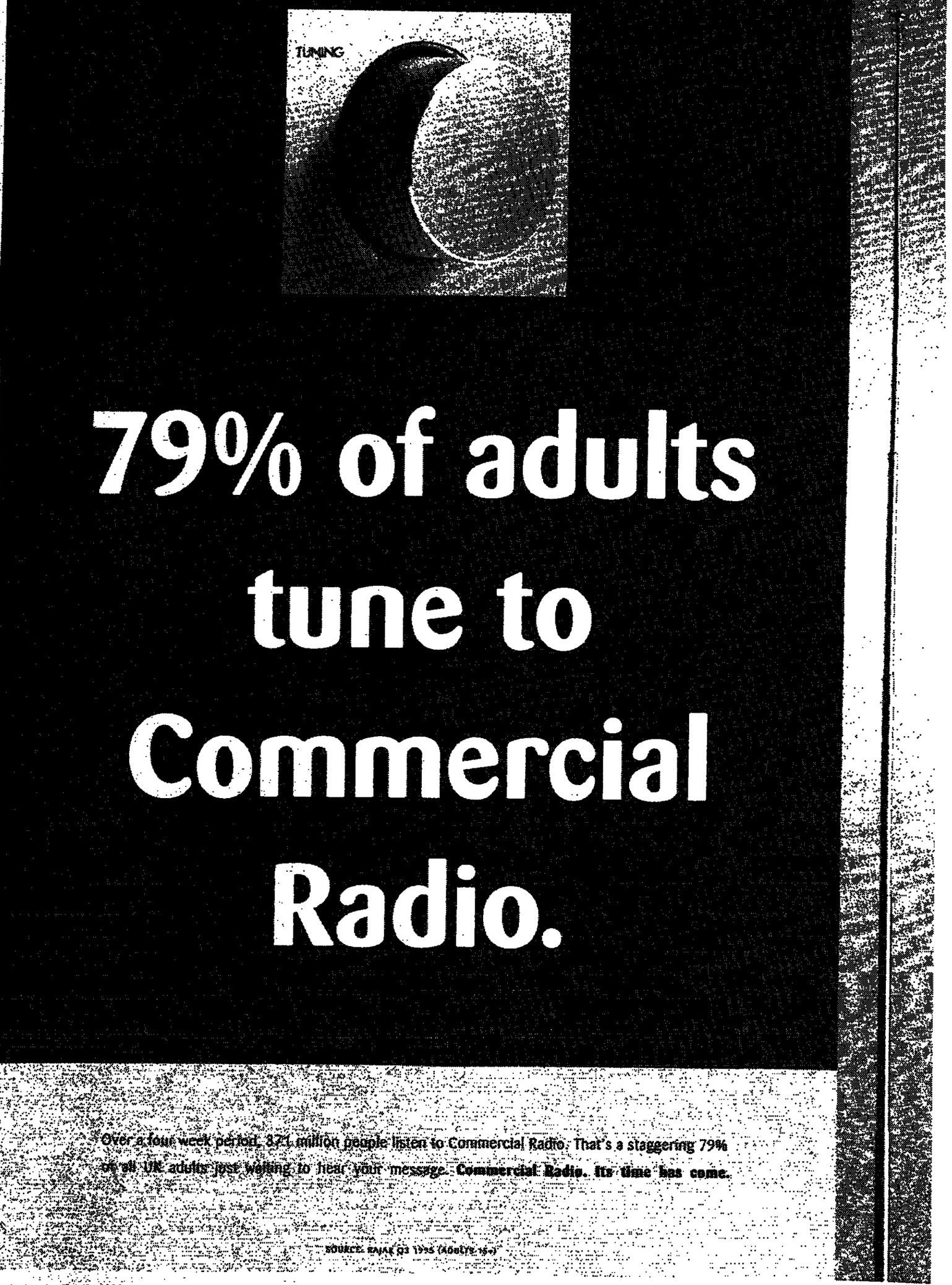
The accused did not dispute that the shooting took place, but claimed that Woldemariam was armed and that they acted in self-defence.

Prosecutors, arguing that Woldemariam was shot in the back, quoted from one of Snoop Doggy Dog's "gangsta rap" songs, *Murder Was the Case*. The song repeats the words: "Murder is the crime they committed".

Gangsta rap is an aggressive form of music which reflects, and arguably perpetuates, the drug-ridden, gun-toting, sexually loose way of life in the grubbier reaches of Los Angeles.

Jurors in the Snoop Doggy Dog case reportedly rolled their eyes early on in the trial when the police failed to produce important evidence such as the victim's clothes and a cartridge case. They had been destroyed by mistake before the case reached court.

Before the verdict was announced, Snoop Doggy Dog managed to maintain his trademark cool, but on hearing the news he hugged his bodyguard, McKinley Lee, who was also acquitted.



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EU agrees truce in Eta extradition dispute

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

EUROPEAN Union ministers healed a dispute between Spain and Belgium yesterday which was threatening the shaky edifice of the Schengen agreement, the pact on open borders among seven continental states.

The seven agreed to tighten co-operation on extradition to avoid a repetition of the dispute that flared this month when Belgium's highest court refused to send home two Basque separatists to face terrorism charges.

Spain, outraged over the sanctuary granted to guerrilla suspects by a partner state, had withdrawn its Brussels ambassador and threatened to pull out of judicial co-operation if its grievances were not answered. The Interior Ministers, meeting in The Hague, agreed to seek ways of modifying the article of the Schengen treaty covering extradition.

It was not clear, however, how similar cases could be avoided, given that the Schengen states would be unlikely to agree to override the sovereignty of national courts in such sensitive matters as the extradition of suspects claiming political persecution. The dispute over extradition is just one area of discord in an agreement which is still far from fully operational almost a year after it came into effect.

In the meantime, Jon Idigoras, joint spokesman for the political wing of Eta, the Basque separatist organisation, was detained yesterday morning in his home town of Amorebieta, near Bilbao. His detention comes two days after an estimated 350,000 people demonstrated in the Spanish capital against the current upsurge in violence during the run-up to a general election on March 3.



Idigoras: questioned about Eta violence

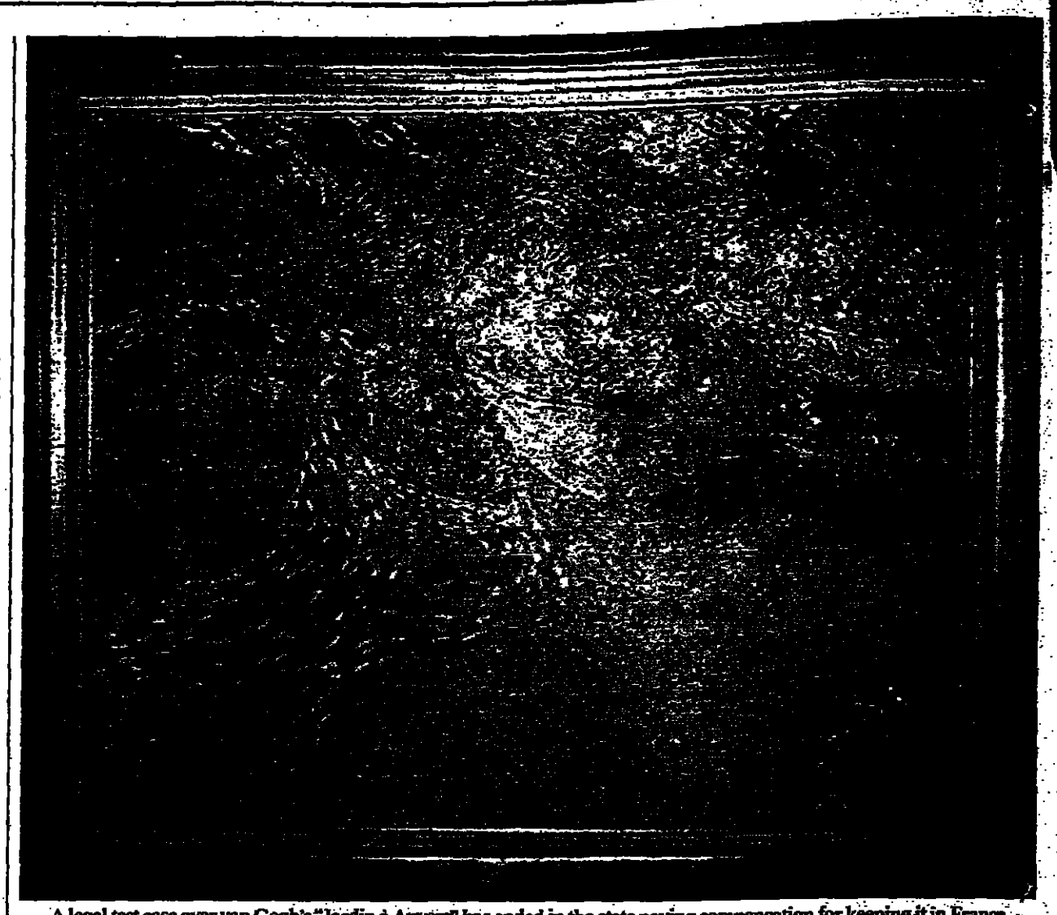
Señor Idigoras, 58, was arrested after his party, Herri Batasuna (Popular Unity), tried to distribute a video showing three masked and armed members of Eta (Basque Homeland and Liberty) explaining their policies. The Basque separatists knew they were flouting the law by sending the video to television stations for use during the free air time allotted for party political broadcasts.

The Basque autonomous police force, the Ertzaintza, was due to transfer Señor Idigoras, whose craggy features are as well known to Spaniards as the beard of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, is known to Britons, to the national court in Madrid for questioning by Baltasar Garzón, an investigating judge. Señor Idigoras faces charges of collaborating with "an armed group".

Herri Batasuna said yesterday: "The big words of Spanish political leaders are worthless. The huge demonstrations in Spanish cities are worthless. They are not going to bring any solution to the actual violent conflict. It is a political conflict that requires political solutions. There is a proposal on the table in an absolutely democratic text and the Government has this great challenge to confront."

Eta demands an amnesty for about 500 convicted guerrillas in Spanish jails, the "retreat" of the Spanish "forces of occupation" and the right to self-determination.

Political violence rather than issues such as unemployment is the main issue in the present Spanish election campaign. The separatists are opposed to a political settlement because only a minority of Basques, 16 per cent in the last regional elections, would vote for the independence that Eta and Herri Batasuna seek.



A legal test case over van Gogh's "Jardin à Auvers" has ended in the state paying compensation for keeping it in France

Brush with art world costs the State £19m

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AN ART collector banned from selling his van Gogh painting abroad must be paid Fr145 million (£19 million) in compensation by the French State, the highest civil court ruled this week.

In 1989 Jacques Walter, now 87, attempted to sell his van Gogh masterpiece, *Jardin à Auvers*, on the international art market, but the Culture Ministry declared that the picture was a "national treasure" that could not leave French soil.

He sued the Government, claiming that the ban had forced him to sell the painting in France for a fraction of what it would have fetched on the inflated 1980s art market.

Jardin à Auvers, completed by van Gogh just days before he committed suicide in 1890, was bought by M Walter in New York in 1955 for the equivalent of £160,000.

By 1992, M Walter had run up large debts and put the painting up for auction. Bidding was restricted to French citizens and it was sold for £7 million, about one-sixth of its estimated value on the international market.

In 1994, a Paris court ordered the French State to pay £55.5 million to compensate the collector. An appeals court later reduced the award to £19 million.

Both the Government and M Walter appealed again. On Tuesday, the appeals court decision was upheld by the Cour de Cassation, bringing the landmark case to an end. "Can the State, on the pretext of defending the national heritage, despoil the heritage of private citizens?" M Walter's lawyer demanded.

The *Jardin à Auvers* case has been closely watched by the French art world and this week's ruling is the first time the State has been forced to pay out such a claim.

Under a 1913 law, the State can prevent the export of artworks by classifying them as "historic treasures" and paying indemnity to the owners. The verdict in M Walter's favour is expected to prompt similar claims.

The case has also brought with it a whiff of corruption. Testifying in February 1994, M Walter's son, Jean-Jacques Walter, alleged that his father's lawyer had twice reported that an export licence could be obtained by bribing the Minister of Culture.

The younger M Walter claimed that Jack Lang, the Minister of Culture for most of the Mitterrand era, and François Léotard, who replaced him between 1986 and 1988, had demanded £5 million and £3 million respectively. Both have angrily denied the allegations.

Jean-Jacques Walter hailed the verdict as a "victory for citizens against the intrigues of the State".

Blizzard brings snow to Majorca

BY EDWARD OWEN

THE holiday island of Majorca in the Mediterranean was blanketed by a rare snowstorm yesterday and the northern half of Spain was largely paralysed by blizzards which cut rail and road routes and closed most airports.

The Basque, Cantabrian and Asturias regions of Spain around the Bay of Biscay were worst hit. Mountain rescue teams were out in force and people stranded in refuges were advised by radio to stay put. Hundreds were marooned in vehicles and an estimated 20,000 villagers were cut off.

The Spanish Traffic Department reported that roads were impassable in 300 locations and that it had received more than 300,000 calls from the public seeking advice.

Weather forecast, page 22

German shipyard stalls creditors

FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN

GERMANY'S largest shipbuilder, Bremer Vulkan, facing losses of more than a billion marks (almost £450 million), yesterday decided to stall bankruptcy proceedings.

The company opted to file for protection from creditors while it tries to work out a survival deal and renegotiate credit facilities. Commentators remained sceptical about the firm's future and said they doubted that the 23,000 jobs could be saved.

Günter Rexrodt, the Economics Minister, said he had contacted European Union officials in Brussels about a rescue deal. However, a bleak picture was painted by Johannes Ludewig, State Secretary in the Economics Ministry, who said anyone who believed Vulkan could be saved was "living in cloud-cuckoo-land".

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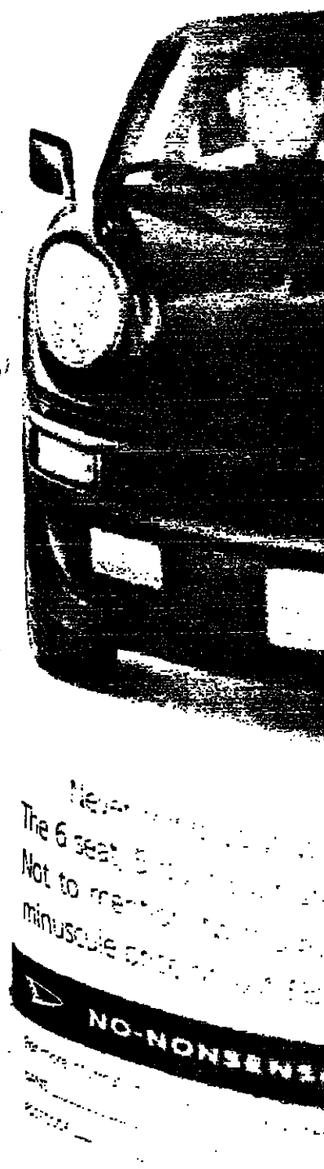


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I risked our baby's life for the sake of her looks

A delicate skull operation has had bad publicity after some children were misdiagnosed. But **Halina Kierkuc** is sure she made the right decision for her daughter



Georgia Kierkuc today, and (inset left) aged six months, just after her operation. Photograph by Peter Nicholls

My twin daughters were about six weeks old when I began to suspect something was wrong. I remember the day, even the second, a couple of weeks later that I knew for sure. An old schoolfriend had dropped in for tea. As she gazed down at them lying side by side, I watched her smile evaporate.

I knew what was coming. "Georgia's getting a really odd-shaped forehead, isn't she?" I started cracking feeble jokes about my Eastern European ancestry and our dashing Slavonic browlines. But my stomach turned. For the past few weeks, I had watched silently as my baby's head had begun to bulge, almost imperceptibly at first, around the temples. At this stage, I might not have noticed at all had it not been for her almost identical twin Clementine, whose head was, by now, an entirely different shape.



Georgia was suffering from a rare skull condition, craniosynostosis. Around 250 children are born each year in the UK with one or more of the network of tiny "expansion" joints which criss-cross their heads prematurely fused. It can be hereditary. More often, as in our case, its causes are a complete mystery. When these babies' brains begin to grow, their skulls are pushed into increasingly odd shapes to compensate for the lack of "give" along the sealed-up seams. As Barry Jones, the director of Great Ormond Street Hospital's cranio-facial unit, explains: "It is like blowing up a balloon constricted by an elastic band. As the pressure inside increases, the balloon bulges or flattens on either side of the constriction." At worst, craniosynostosis can cause brain damage. Untreated, it will certainly cause disfigurement, sometimes of both the skull and the face.

Many parents who read last weekend's reports about the children in Leeds who were misdiagnosed as suffering from this condition, and subsequently underwent painful surgery, may now hesitate to take action if they suspect their children have similar problems. My advice, based on our experience, is that if you have the slightest doubt, you should seek help immediately from one of the three specialist units in the UK which are equipped to deal with the problem. Go anywhere else and you are unlikely to get the treatment your child desperately needs. Mr Jones says: "To treat this condition properly requires a number of specialists from different disciplines working together as a team. Without that very particular combination of expertise, a child is unlikely to be diagnosed or treated appropriately."

This is what happened to my family. Despite my suspicions, it was many weeks before Georgia's condition was diagnosed — a few months longer and she might have been permanently deformed. At first I kept my fears quiet. The girls had been born two months prematurely at St Thomas' Hospital in London and had only just come home after five weeks in a special-care baby unit. If something had been wrong, I rationalised, surely the teams of paediatricians at the hospital would have spotted it?

I comforted myself with the thought that no one except me and one friend had sensed anything was wrong — neither health visitors, GPs nor my own family had noticed anything amiss — and I was only too happy to put my worries down to a new mother's paranoia. A few weeks later we returned to St Thomas' outpatients for the twins' routine check-up. A nurse came to weigh them, and measured Georgia's head circumference several times, before disappearing abruptly. By the time we got into the paediatrician's office, I was panicking. He examined her skull immediately, but seemed unperturbed. "She won't grow out of it," he said, "but when she's a teenager she can wear her fringe long." He reassured us there was nothing seriously wrong.

Over the next month, Georgia's features began to change. As the top of her head elongated, the whole shape of her face altered. Something was going horribly wrong, though we could hardly bear to think about it. Much less did we know what to do in the face of so much "expert" opinion that suggested there was nothing to worry about.

We were lucky. Georgia was born with a large birthmark on her neck which could be treated. I made an appointment with a plastic surgeon who specialised in laser treatment. The first thing he said when he saw her was: "What are you doing about her head?" I froze. He immediately told me I should forget about her neck and concentrate on her skull. He knew of another plastic surgeon in London who specialised in her sort of "problem".

Georgia and I saw Barry Jones at Great Ormond Street a few days later. The decision that confronted us was stark. Georgia's particular form of craniosynostosis was unlikely to cause brain damage, and the chance of developmental problems for her was about 13 per cent. But she would, inevitably, be deformed without surgery.

The operation was a major one, though, and needed to be performed quickly while her skull was still soft. It is an even more difficult procedure for older children. Working in tandem with a neurosurgeon, Mr Jones would have to peel away part of my daughter's scalp, then remove and remodel the bones of the front of her skull to give her brain the chance to grow into a normal shape. This delicate "carpentry" takes place directly on top of the membranes which cover the brain itself. There were obvious risks. I will never forget the next 24 hours, agonising over whether to risk our baby's life for the sake of the way she would look. Many of our friends advised against it, but watching her with her twin sister sitting beside her — the same, but so perfectly different — I knew, for Georgia's sake, that I had no choice.

At Great Ormond Street, we had been shown the pictures of other children who had come out of the surgery successfully. They were, without exception, so bruised and battered they were barely recognisable. Yet within days they had begun to recover. We asked to wait until after Christmas to have the surgery. On the morning of her six-month "half birthday", January 21 1993, she was admitted to hospital. The next day, she was wheeled away for the four-hour operation. My husband and I walked the streets.

When we saw her again she was in intensive care, still asleep, and with a drain protruding from a thin gauze cap on her head. I had steeled myself for the very worst, but miraculously, she was completely unbruised and remained that way. Even more miraculously, her head and face were already a different shape, and continued to improve over the following months as she "grew into" the surgery. Within four days, Georgia was back at home with us, her scalp stapled together with metal clips which were removed in outpatients a week later. Of course, we will never be sure what trauma she suffered or how much pain she felt. But there are no signs, three years later, that she has been affected in the long-term.

Her skull is a normal shape and the only scar that remains is a pencil-thin line stretching from ear to ear beneath her hairline — a source of great fascination for her school friends and slightly ghoulish pride for Georgia.

> He said: 'What are you doing about her head?' I froze

At her last check-up, over a year ago, I was assured that her head was so strong that she was fit to play rugby for the All Blacks. The threat of developmental problems is gone. And I think she looks like an angel, though she rarely behaves like one.

The last word should go to Barry Jones. "If you have any concerns about the growth or shape of your child's head, go to a GP or paediatrician who should refer you to one of the three supra-regional centres in London, Birmingham or Oxford. These are expensive units to run, but they are funded centrally, so GPs and health authorities should know that they won't pay a cent for the referral or treatment." And to parents his message is simple: "We can treat craniosynostosis very successfully. At Great Ormond Street alone we are operating on 80 children a year. In experienced hands, the risks are very small." As a parent, I believe the results justify those risks and I think in years to come Georgia will agree.

● *Cranio-facial Support Group: Trem Hafren, Earlswood, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 6AN (0129 164154?)*

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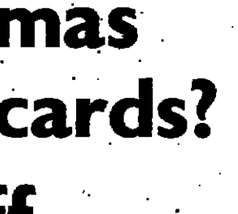
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Dealing with prostate trouble, from cancer to enlargement

Drugs for a better flow

WHATEVER the ethics of President Mitterrand's doctor disclosing details of his late patient's medical condition, it has served a useful purpose in encouraging many men who have prostatic cancer.

It seems that Mitterrand had had hormone treatment for many years — some reports suggest for nearly 15 years — which was designed to inhibit the growth of the tumour which had already spread beyond the prostate at the time of diagnosis. Despite his condition Mitterrand continued to feel well and remained a leading figure on the international stage until the last years.

However, suggestions in the French press last week that Mitterrand might have sired a son while taking hormonal treatment for cancer of the prostate have been greeted by doctors with some scepticism on both sides of the Channel. The avowed purpose of the treatment is to achieve chemical castration, and in that Mitterrand survived for so long it must have been very effective. It is possible that artificial insemination using stored semen might have explained the press reports but, understandably, the late President's woman friend refuses to comment.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

In over 50 per cent of cases cancer of the prostate has already spread beyond the gland by the time it is diagnosed. Since 1941 it has been known that 70 per cent of patients will respond for a variable amount of time to medical or surgical castration. Combinations of anti-androgenic drugs are now being prescribed and more than one type of treatment is being used simultaneously. There is evidence that these combined therapies significantly increase survival time, but sometimes at the cost of additional side effects.

Although cancer of the prostate is second only to cancer of the lung as a cause of death in men from malignant disease, most will not suffer from it. Conversely all men, if they live long enough, will have trouble from benign prostatic hypertrophy, enlargement of the prostate. Surgery is still the mainstay of treatment and the standard operation, transurethral resection of the prostate, is safe and effective.

However, it is frequently forgotten that many cases of benign enlargement can be treated without recourse to surgery or other invasive procedures. For centuries herbalists have had their favourite remedies but their effectiveness is open to doubt. Now the pharmaceutical industry is marketing two groups of drugs which will improve urinary flow, though not as much as surgery, and relieve symptoms. Alpha blockers, such as Hypovase, relax the muscles and allow the patient to urinate easily, but cause dizziness and low blood pressure. The androgen suppressors, such as Proscar, reduce the size of the prostate, but in 3 per cent of cases produce a reversible impotency.

Shout and twist



THERE are few types of delivery which can give greater satisfaction to a doctor than a well-conducted breech birth. But both the baby and the mother will have faced a delivery which carries with it an unacceptably high risk of serious complications. Evidence suggests that an elective Caesarean section would have been more likely to produce a healthy child, and a mother who would recover faster. Manually turning a baby by pressure through the abdominal wall is no longer accepted by most obstetricians as a safe procedure. Version, the doctors' term for turning, can damage the placenta and deprive the baby of oxygen.

However, obstetricians at the Regional Medical Centre in Phoenix, Arizona, have managed to persuade a baby to change its position by startling it in the uterus. They have devised a noise, broadcast through the abdominal wall, that makes it move so violently that when it later settles down there is a good chance that it will be leading by the head. Thereafter it can be delivered normally. Treated in this way, four-fifths of babies turned spontaneously.

The trouble with veins



ONE of the most serious supposed complications of varicose veins is deep-vein thrombosis, which can cause a pulmonary embolism — a blood clot in the pulmonary artery which can be fatal. The effect of varicose veins on the likelihood of developing a DVT after surgery, or in women who take the Pill, has recently been analysed in the *British Medical Journal*. The conclusion is that varicose veins alone are unlikely to increase the risk of a DVT, but may be a factor when other hazards, such as pelvic or abdominal surgery, are present.

Whatever the dangers of varicose veins, the problem of DVTs is still underestimated in Britain.

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ADMIRAL

When Owen Matthews laid a charge of assault in Moscow he uncovered some rough justice


PINKHASSOV © /MAGNUM

A meal break for inmates of Russia's Eletse penitentiary south of Moscow, where a work regime is enforced, discipline is tough and a mafia-style network is in operation

A dubious privilege

Last summer I spent some time in a Russian jail. It was only a few hours, carefully shepherded on a journalistic visit by a sadistic and slightly insane warder, but it was enough to convince me that I would honestly rather die than end up there.

Moscow's Butirskaya prison had been designed in the 1780s for just under a third of its present number of inmates, and hadn't had a proper refit since 1878. The prisoners had 75 sq cm of living space each and were packed 140 to a cell, with one tiny window and one toilet, sleeping in shifts. I never imagined as I emerged, retching, from that stinking, Dickensian nightmare of a jail that I would be instrumental in adding two more inmates to its overcrowded cells.

Then, about a month ago, I was beaten up in a side street in central Moscow. Three men, two Tartars and one Russian, were lurching down the street, roaring drunk and obviously spoiling for some fisticuffs. Two passed me and my three friends by without incident; the third pushed into me, grabbed me by the coat, punched me in the face and sent me flying. The other two joined in, kicking me on the ground.

I got up, was punched again and fell down again for several minutes of strangely balletic and dislocated time. My friends ran away, leaving me alone in the dark, empty street. My only defender was the Russian who, once he realised that his pals were going too far, tried to pull them off me. Not very effectively.

I was saved by two men in a passing car who jumped out and chased my assailants away. My friends returned shortly afterwards with some security men, picked me up from the pavement and offered to take me for a stiff drink. And with that, the incident would have been over if, by chance, a police Jeep hadn't driven by. I flagged it down, explained what had happened, climbed in and screeched off in hot pursuit of my attackers.

They hadn't got far. The trio were staggering towards Lubyanka metro station as the police car swerved to cut them off. Before they could say "police brutality" the cuffs were on and the two Tartars had been thrown (literally) into the back of the car. The Russian who had defended me they left on the street. Within 15 minutes they were sitting in a giant cage in the police station and I was leaning weakly against the counter, quietly dripping blood as a policeman took my details. It was at this point that he asked me for ID and I produced my battered Foreign Ministry press accreditation card.

Things moved very quickly after that. Russians seem to have a strange fascination for official documentation, and anything which smacks of authority commands instant attention. Like Dorothy's magical journey to Oz, the scene suddenly changed from the drab grey of a routine evening to the glorious Technicolor of a minor international incident. Even the five policemen watching television behind the reception desk were momentarily distracted by the magical allure of that smudged, double-headed eagle government stamp and the assortment of expired Unprofor, Hungarian, Bosnian and Mongolian press cards which oozed respectability and officialdom, even if their unshaven and bloody bearer didn't.

I was whisked upstairs to an interview room, where a harassed-looking female lieutenant-colonel assured me that this matter would be treated with the utmost seriousness. As I was to discover later, she wasn't joking. I told her, perhaps a little too vehemently, that I wanted her to lock them up for as long as possible, and preferably to throw away the key. I said that I hoped the police would beat them to within an inch of their lives that night, and every subsequent night until there was not an unbroken bone left in their bodies. As I was being driven to hospital, I was quite ready to borrow one of the policemen's clubs and do the job myself.

But like Henry II with his "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" quip, I hadn't counted on the literal-mindedness of the officers of the law. When I returned the next morning I met one of the policemen who had arrested the two men the night before.

"How are you, Owen?" he said, clapping me on the shoulder. "Don't worry about those two. They didn't get bored last night. Ha, ha, ha."

In the interview room with the lieutenant-colonel I wrote down what had happened, for the record. Or rather, I gave her a blow-by-blow account, and she dictated back what I should write in stilted officialese. The other witnesses simply signed handwritten copies of my version of events.

My Russian aunt also did her bit. Unknown to me, she phoned up her old colleagues from the prosecutor's office, where she had worked for 30 years, and the Ministry of Justice, where her late husband had been deputy minister. Phone calls were made, fates were sealed.

Three days after the incident, my bruises had gone down and I was more or less recovered from my slight concussion. The two Tartars, however, seemed conversely to be picking up new bruises daily. The accused were led, one by one, into a grubby, schoolroom-type hall, where the investigator and I sat, Solomon-like, behind a raised desk. They were in a bad state. Two brothers in their late twenties, neither of whom had been arrested before, they both had jobs and the elder one had a wife and three-year-old son. For second-degree group assault and "hooliganism" they were looking at a minimum sentence of *four years* in prison. They were crying.

"Matthews, I am guilty before you," said Ravil, the elder brother, his head in his hands. "What can I do to make it up to you? With one stupid action I have crossed out my whole life, my family, everything I've worked for. I beg you to forgive me."

It was horrible. A grown man in tears, begging you for mercy, is a terrible sight. Both had been so drunk they couldn't remember what had happened, even to deny it. Prison meant that they would probably never work again, could lose their right to live in Moscow, and their families would be left destitute.

"Can I drop the charges?" I sheepishly asked Ms lieutenant-colonel. "We've started the wheel spinning and it will spin till the end," she replied cryptically.

They were transferred to Butirskaya jail to await their trial, some time in April. If I hadn't been a foreigner, they might have had a chance. One of the dubious privileges of being a Westerner here is that crimes against foreigners are still treated much more seriously than those against ordinary Russians. Even so, if they had had enough money to bribe their accuser and the investigator ($20,000 for each seems to be the going rate), or if they'd had the right connections, they could have been free after one phone call. But as it is they stand next to no chance of getting off: Russian criminal courts have a conviction rate of 97 per cent and no jury system.

None of my Russian friends has an ounce of sympathy for them. Few criminals here are caught, but those that are take the full brunt of society's growing hysteria about rising crime. So the two Tartars will almost certainly be celebrating the millennium in a labour camp in Siberia, at once perpetrators and victims of the random brutality, vindictive primitiveness and violence which for centuries have pervaded every aspect of Russian society and politics.

It's official: fashion is where the feet are

Forget about keeping up with the latest clothes and follow in Imelda Marcos's footsteps: shoes are where it's at, says **Nick Foulkes**


Loafers are a fashion classic that look good with any outfit

Shoes are the new clothes. That may sound daft, but along the lines of Diana Vreeland's immortal observation about pink being the navy blue of India, there is a certain logic to it: shoes, it seems, are what people are buying instead of clothes.

Patrick Cox, the Chelsea-based wunderkind shoe designer, who helped to popularise the mock snakeskin loafer, explains: "I think fashion has become somewhat irrelevant. We do Seventies, then we do Sixties and then suddenly we do Seventies again. People are changing and updating their wardrobes with accessories. Bags and shoes have come to the forefront of people's minds."

What tends to come to the forefront of the mind when talk turns to shoes is Imelda Marcos, former first lady of the Philippines, and Cox admits that there "is always a hard core of women who will buy 20 pairs a season, and not just from me but from everyone else as well". Nevertheless, he insists that the popularity of shoes is moving out of this exotic ghetto.

Tierney Gifford Horne, fashion director of *Harpers & Queen*, concurs. "People now wear what they feel comfortable with, but accessories are what keep the outfits in fashion. If you have a pair of grey flannels and a grey turtle-neck sweater which you bought five years ago, you can bring them up to date with a one-shoulder-strap bag and a square-heeled, square-toed shoe."

Trends which used to last anything up to a decade now last a season at the outside, and in throwing off the yoke of fashion, women have rediscovered shoes. "You may not want to buy a lime green dress, but you can buy lime green shoes. Shoes can change an outfit radically," says Mr Cox. "Everyone is addicted to the little black dress; worn with a pair of platforms it can look Seventies, with high shoes it can look Twenties, or Sixties with a pair of square-toed shoes."

Hicky Taylor, *Vogue*'s very own Imelda Marcos, who keeps dozens of pairs of shoes carefully mummified in reams of tissue paper. "If you are wearing short you want something terribly high, strappy and sexy. Long, I would wear something lower, but again terribly feminine. For floaty clothes I would wear satin, strappy slingbacks, and for the long, sculpted silhouette it is grosgrain or black satin," she says.


MAGNUM

Preparations for a Paris fashion collection get under way

Ms Taylor has a choice of at least four pairs of day shoes to accompany an outfit, and believes that it is impossible to have too many evening shoes.

If Flo Torrens of Russell and Bromley is to be to believed, Ms Taylor is a typical, albeit slightly exaggerated example of the new shoe consumer. "People are much more precise about what they want. It used to be a case of buying any old court shoe, but now it is vital to have just the right pair," she says emphatically. "It is easier to make do with last season's clothes than it is with shoes. You can't cheat on shoes."

Nor is it merely women who are becoming more demanding when it comes to being shod. Eric Cook, who has worked for Lobb, Maxwells and New & Lingwood, recently set up his own bespoke shoe-making business. "Because of the increase in the popularity of bespoke tailoring among younger men, I am now finding that they are expressing an interest in having bespoke, hand-crafted shoes. In London, the original West End shoemakers such as Lobb, New & Lingwood, Wildsmith and Fosters have been joined by newer names."

The cult of footwear is not restricted to the top end of the market. Shellys, the high-street fashion shoe store, sees its mission as making chic footwear accessible to all. Indeed, purchasing a pair of Shellys shoes is something of a rite of passage. In London the company sells about 30,000 pairs every week, and on a Saturday the mêlée at the Regent Street branch is enough to bring on a claustrophobic attack as people buy a new pair for the big night out.

A team of in-house designers produces everything from loafers through mules to kitten heels and boots, in every style from Tank Girl to drop-dead trendy knee-high, mock-croc square-toed.

But perhaps the surest indicator that shoes are taking over from clothes is that just as fashion designers produce one eye-catching, if apparently uncomfortable or modesty-challenging, garment, so do shoe designers. *Vogue* recently printed a picture of a shoe which looked as though it had a masonry nail as a heel. Designed by Manolo Blahnik's sister Evangeline, it is certainly eye-catching (Linda Evangelista is said to have bought pairs in several colours). However, at £200 a pair, they are probably not quite the thing for a heavy night on the town.

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هكذا في الاصل

Britain must resist this court

Bruce Anderson on a ruling that threatens our liberty

Michael Howard was surprisingly plausible in defeat yesterday. The European Court of Human Rights had struck down an important element of British practice in dealing with juvenile murderers, but Mr Howard managed to sound both conciliatory and defiant. Politically, it was an impressive performance: sweet are the fudges of adversity. But it was no more than an evasion. Britain's adherence to the court is now causing fundamental problems. It is a threat to our democracy, our rule of law and our sovereignty.

None of this was foreseen when we helped to establish the European Convention of Human Rights in the early post-war years. In those days, we were adopting a missionary role. Throughout mainland Europe, the rule of law had been corrupted by fascism, dictatorship and occupation. We wanted to help our neighbours to rebuild their judicial institutions; it seemed only sensible to establish an external means of validation to help to assist them to do so. In those days, we had no idea that this nascent European court would ever cause us trouble. We had won our battles for legal rights in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. For 200 years, we had been an example to the rest of mankind. None of the British founding fathers of the court would have entertained the notion that foreigners had anything to teach us about the rule of law.

> Do the people rule, or the judges?

But the trouble with European institutions is that they are always protean. Even if you start them off in one form, they quickly adopt another. The Court of Human Rights is not part of the EU, but its judges and officials have the same Euro-nomenclatura mentality as those who run Brussels and Strasbourg. Like the EU they are hungry for jurisdiction and disdainful of the nation-state. Its aim is one law to bind all Europe.

The latest judgment has nothing to do with human rights. Until now, the Home Secretary had the power to prolong the detention of juvenile murderers if he believed that it was unsafe to release them. By ruling to the contrary, the court is meddling in politics. It is setting itself up as an unelected legislature with the power to over-rule our people and our Parliament. There is no redress for the ensuing grievances.

Some would claim that the same applies to the EU. But at least in that case, there are compensations; we make political concessions to win economic advantages. The price may sometimes be too high, but we have the opportunity to influence the EU's decision-making. Its politics may be alien and often repulsive, but at least we can play our hand.

We cannot do that in the Court of Human Rights, nor does one single advantage accrue from our membership. The Foreign Office has a counter-argument. It points out that the emergent democracies of Central and Eastern Europe are now being enticed into the Convention. Their position is analogous to that of France and Germany in 1950: their civil society is so polluted that they require outside help to live according to civilised norms, but if Britain were now to withdraw, they might be deterred from joining.

But they are capable of grown-up assessments. There is no difficulty in explaining to Romanians, Slovaks or Latvians why they need the court while we do not; they understand the distinction, and most of them envy our superiority in the rule of law. So there is only one problem: our diplomats' embarrassment at any notion of British superiority.

One other solution to the question has been proposed, by Tony Blair and others: to incorporate the Convention into British domestic law. If we had a written constitution, it might seem preferable to frame it in our own forms and have it interpreted by our own judges. But a written constitution is not only inherently anti-democratic, it is a threat to the integrity of the legal process.

Almost all of those who want a written constitution wish to use the courts to rectify their democratic incompetence. Some Tories are attracted by the thought of entrenching fox-hunting and private education. Left-wingers see a hope of securing equality for homosexuals and a more lenient treatment of criminals. Both sides would look to the judges to make laws which the democratic process would never accept.

The malign consequences of this are apparent in the recent history of the United States, where the Supreme Court has become a partisan — and unelected — legislature. As such it has contributed to the withdrawal of consent from the political process, and the weakening of American institutions. Partly thanks to the Supreme Court, the fire under the melting-pot has gone out, leaving America at the mercy of bellicose minorities.

It is often alleged that Britain has no constitution. This is a crass error. Our constitution is as rich and complex as our history. It cannot be abstracted in documentary form, for it is nothing less than the way of life of a free people, expressed in institutions which are also free, albeit ancient, and bound together by the rule of law. To exchange this great heirloom of freedom for the arbitrary processes of a foreign court would be lunatic. To trade it for the governance of our own judges might be less absurd, but the consequences could be almost as damaging.

The Government's response to the encroachments of the Court of Human Rights has not been heroic. Ministers have lived from judgment to judgment. But eventually, the fundamentals will have to be tackled. We shall have to decide whether we are a democracy or a judgeocracy.

The author is political columnist of The Spectator.



TWO FIGURES DOCTORED TO BE WHITER THAN WHITE

A merchant of fear

Some talk of Alexander, some cling to Dole, but Buchanan goes on winning

William Rees-Mogg

Only three men and the acceptance of two ideas now stand between Pat Buchanan and the White House. The three men are Bob Dole, Lamar Alexander and Bill Clinton. The two ideas are "America First" and "Social Morality". If he can beat these three men, and if the two ideas take fire with the American electorate, Pat Buchanan will be inaugurated as president in January 1997. Iowa showed that his total opposition to abortion has won the support of the religious right, a powerful group in the Republican Party.

In Iowa, Pat Buchanan ran a close second and forced Phil Gramm to withdraw; that left him as the only serious conservative candidate for the Republican nomination. In New Hampshire he ran first, and is now the candidate whom the others have to stop. Yet in New Hampshire the moderates won about 70 per cent of the vote in the Republican primaries, against about 30 per cent for Buchanan and Alan Keyes combined. If that split is maintained, Buchanan will not have enough delegates to win the nomination at San Diego in August, even if he wins the largest number of delegates for any one candidate. However, primary races are often decided by momentum, and Buchanan, after Iowa and New Hampshire, is the candidate with the "Big Mo".

The three men who stand between Buchanan and the White House are all vulnerable. Bob Dole lights no fires. He is over 70 and has been in Congress since 1960. His policy position in American politics is not unlike that of John Major in British: he is the leader of the non-ideological Right, of those conservatives who see politics as a practical, professional, commonsense business, and are distrustful of ideas, those showy things which go bang in your face like an exploding cigar.

Until the voting began Bob Dole was the frontrunner; as soon as voting started, he began to develop negative momentum, winning a smaller share of the Iowa vote than he had done in 1988, and then running second in New Hampshire. He still has money, organisation and the support of the Republican machine. If he can stay in the race, he may be able to do a deal with Lamar Alexander at the convention. Most Republicans doubt whether he could then beat Clinton in November.

Lamar Alexander is the man you vote for if you think Bob Dole is too old and Pat Buchanan is too fascist. An Iowan friend of mine, who attended the local caucus, said that Alexander was "the nicest guy in the race". He has made a lot of money out of investment opportunities which may have arisen because he is a popular local politician in Tennessee. If you write down his policy positions, they are centrist as are Dole's, but he is much more comfortable than Dole with the now dominant generation of baby-boomers. His slogan is ABC — Alexander Beats Clinton — and he probably would have more chance of doing so than Dole. If Dole's campaign collapses, Dole delegates will certainly switch to Alexander to keep out Buchanan.

The weakness of Dole and Alexander is that both of them stand for politics as usual. They are moderate Republicans like George Bush. If either were elected president, the world would go on very much as before. The United States would remain a predictable power, operating on the consensus policies of the post-Reagan period. This might be a very good thing — certainly it is what all other governments would prefer — but it is not an exciting prospect, and may fail to satisfy the American electorate.

There is plenty of evidence that Americans want change. They voted for change in 1992 because they were bored with George Bush; they voted for change in 1994 because they were already bored with Bill Clinton, though they have not become very devoted to Newt Gingrich; they could again vote for change in 1996, though they might live to regret it.

Pat Buchanan is a populist; he speaks of his campaign in terms of a Peasants' Revolt; the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 is not generally regarded as a conservative event. "When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then a gentleman?" Buchanan claims to be bringing "working-class Americans back into the Republican Party" and has compared his supporters to "peasants with pitchforks". He is the Wat Tyler of America's white working-class, with all its prejudices and fears.

This is where the great divide comes among those who call themselves conservatives in the Republican Party. It is partly a divide between working-class and middle-class Republicans. Many of my American friends are Adam Smith conservatives; their core values are those of Jeffersonian liberalism: they believe in a free, open, competitive society under law. Pat Buchanan is not that sort of conservative at all. He identifies with the losers in competition, with the middle-manager who has lost his job, with the automobile worker who believes he has a right to make cars for the American market, and the Japanese and Mexicans do not. He is hostile to the big corporations with their "downsizing" and their rising profits. Adam Smith conservatives believe in international competition: Pat Buchanan's constituency believes in national protection behind a slogan of "America First". He is indeed "the wrong kind of conservative", if he can be called a conservative at all. That should however alarm rather than encourage President Clinton.

Until the late and far from lamented Senator Joe McCarthy developed right-wing populism in the post-war Republican Party, populism was largely the trade of certain Democrats. In my childhood, a number of American politicians with names like Joe or Pat preached "America First" views to the working-class audience. Some of them were horrible, like Father Coughlin, the radio racist. Others were innocent old blue-eyed Irish pols whose lives revolved around the shady contract, the rosary, the whisky bottle and the wake. The most famous, and the most powerful, of these demagogues was not even Irish or Catholic; he was the Governor of Louisiana, Huey Long, whose slogan, "Every man a king", threatened even Franklin Roosevelt in the mid 1930s. Huey was only stopped by being assassinated by an obstetrician in Baton Rouge.

If the Republicans do nominate Pat Buchanan, he will continue to target the religious Right, which might deliver him a majority in the South, and the threatened workers, who might deliver him a majority in the industrial states. Bill Clinton would pick up some countervailing votes in the suburbs. I have some Republican friends who say they would have to vote for Clinton, whom they totally distrust, rather than Buchanan, but these people all belong to the winners in the world of competition, not to the losers. If Pat Buchanan woos the peasants and Bill Clinton woos the peers, it is easy to see who will gain most votes. One has to remember that the "cognitive élite" of the information age is still a small minority.

The danger is that Pat Buchanan could create a new coalition of forces in American politics, as Franklin Roosevelt did in 1932, by allying depressed industrial workers with the poor white South; he would be doing it with isolationist policies, and as a Republican. Buchanan's difficulty is that he needs a recession, and he may not get one. The discontent exists, but is far from universal.

The early Republican primaries probably reflect the national arithmetic. The moderates win 70 per cent of the vote; the conservatives, playing on social and economic anxieties, win 30 per cent. At present most Americans still feel that they are doing quite well. They do not admire Bill Clinton, but they do not think that he has done too badly for them. Nor do they feel isolationist or in personal need of job protection. If this present mood continues, the Republicans are likely to nominate Dole or Alexander, and if they did nominate Buchanan he would probably lose. One of his weaknesses is that his attitudes repel many women, and that alone could stop him reaching the White House.

The Federal Reserve's official view is that the American economy is "basically on track for sustained growth". It could be wrong. But this optimism is supported by the latest advance indicators and by the broad money supply figures. If there is no recession, Buchanan will run out of the economic anxiety which makes people vote for him. He is a merchant of fear, and without fear he will not succeed. There was enough fear in New Hampshire to put him into first place. That cannot be good news for America.

An oily drop in the ocean

Nigel Hawkes says the spill is not catastrophic

The fury of the sea mocks man's pretensions to have mastered nature. First it smashes an oil tanker on the rocks, then it laughs at our concern over the damage the leaking oil will do. To the ocean, both the tanker and the oil are trivial.

Thirty years of experience has taught that oil spills are never as bad as they seem. It is small consolation to people whose beaches are contaminated and to birds and other creatures injured or killed, but within a few months — unless we are very unlucky — the evidence of the spill should have largely disappeared.

Those of us who said this at the time of the Braer spill in the Shetlands three years ago held our breath, but only for a day or two. The sea swallowed the oil as easily as many swallow the environmentalists' propaganda, trotted out shamelessly each time a tanker goes aground. There is nothing like an oiled bird for getting to the parts of the brain that more mundane forms of fundraising cannot reach.

The *Sea Empress* contained a lot of oil, but even if all of it escapes, it will be only about half the volume lost from the *Amoco Cadiz*, which grounded off Brittany in 1978, and a small fraction of the million or so tons deliberately leaked by Saddam Hussein during the 1991 Gulf War. (By the summer of 1992, an American expedition to the Gulf could find few traces of this oil in the sea, although the beaches then remained badly contaminated.)

The greatest danger during oil spills may be the overpowering urge to be seen to be doing something. Governments would face abuse if they said what is true, that nature is best left to look after itself. Salvage operators also have an interest in action, though it is the hope of profit rather than the fear of public disapprobation that motivates them.

Oil is natural, and has been seeping into the sea since time immemorial. Detergents, on the other hand, are the products of synthetic chemists, and no bacterial populations have evolved to take them apart. Much has been done to improve detergents since the *Torrey Canyon* disaster, when they certainly did more harm than the oil, but even now there is little case for spraying oil at sea unless it is heading for shore.

Left to its own devices, substantial amounts of the oil will evaporate, while some will sink to the seabed and be incorporated into sediments. Bacteria will break most of it up, and some attempts to enhance the process may be justified. In the *Exxon Valdes* spill in Alaska, pellets of fertiliser containing nitrogen, phosphorus and iron speeded up the degradation of the oil threefold, without apparently injuring marine life.

Comparatively little is known about how these consortia of micro-organisms work. By 1992, the coast of the Gulf was covered with blue-green mats, each gram of which contained a million cells of bacteria capable of using crude oil as their sole form of energy. The mats were formed by another type of bacterium, which both provided the oil-gobblers with the oxygen they need, and held them together so that they were not swept out to sea. Man could never have designed so neat a system.

In Nigeria, studies have shown that fungi too play a part, and that the population of microbes alters as it tackles first the light and then the heavy fractions of the crude. Anything that damages these bacterial populations — including detergent or even hot water (which was used to wash the Alaskan rocks after *Exxon Valdes*) is hindering not helping.

That is all very well in the long term. But what about the birds and fish now being poisoned by the oil? Natural populations of most species, including birds, follow a roller-coaster pattern determined by weather and the availability of food. A spill even as large as this one is relatively insignificant when set against this background. Only if the bird is rare or the species at risk would an oil spill be catastrophic.

This is not, of course, to argue that oil spills don't matter. They are a tremendous waste of time, energy and material, although they contribute in total only about a fifth of the oil that reaches the sea: far more is poured down the drains by careless motorists doing their own servicing.

Much better if oil tankers never grounded on rocks, but that is asking the impossible. Occasional spills are the price we pay for a worldwide trade out of which Britain has profited greatly, especially since the discovery of North Sea oil.

The paradox is that the environmentalists who criticise modern society for its dominion over nature are making the same error themselves, by implying that our accidents are capable of destroying it. The evidence is that great oceans can absorb tremendous punishment without showing any perceptible effects — think of the millions of tons of dangerous cargoes sunk in the north Atlantic during the Second World War, never to be seen or heard of again.

The effects of the *Sea Empress* are likely to be local, short-lived, and far less catastrophic than we are being asked to believe. It is a great pity the tanker grounded, but it is not the end of the world.

Another fine mess

BARONESS Thatcher has been letting off steam about John Major over the Scott report. She has been telling friends that the Prime Minister should never have subjected his Government to the ghastly mess it has caused — she believes he should not have set up Sir Richard Scott's inquiry over the sale of arms to Iraq.

Much to the astonishment of fellow diners, she held forth on the subject the other day at an exclusive dinner party in London. "She didn't hold back," says one source. "It was full-blown Thatcher."

Yesterday, her office was less forthcoming about her dinner engagements. But although she had previously kept her views on Sir Richard's inquiry to herself, she proved a frosty interviewee for him and his elegant assistant Presiley Baxendale during the proceedings.

● *The BBC has been besieged by opera lovers, desperate for more revelations about the Royal Opera House, now that its gripping documentary series* The House *has finished. What they really want to know is in which box it was that an amorous young couple were caught after complaints about the noise. After indefatigable research, I can reveal that those with romantic intentions should ask for box 38. And keep quiet.*

Nose job

JARVIS COCKER, the androgynous lead singer of Pulp, vehemently denies knocking down children when he invaded the stage at the Brit awards. But he has caused some damage in the past. A boyhood trip to Skegness sounds particularly violent.

"I knocked out this scrap man, who was courting me mother," he says in this month's *Arena* magazine, insisting "I didn't mean to. We were playing crazy golf, and I don't think I'd played it before. I'd seen it on telly that you swing when you play golf . . . and he was stood behind me. I cracked him right on the top of the nose and knocked him out."

● *Feathers will be flying tonight outside Her Majesty's Theatre in London's Haymarket, where animal rights protesters will be picketing* Phantom of the Opera. *It's not so much the show they object to as Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's plan to farm ostriches on his estate in Berkshire. "They are not farm animals, they are exotic ancient birds from Africa," squawks a picket. A couple of ostrich eggs lobbed from the balcony should settle it.*

Number one

JUST how close to the Almighty is Sir Edward Heath? The question was posed by guests at the former Prime Minister's lunch table at his Salisbury home recently. The party included the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev David Stancliffe, and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume. So, who should say grace? The Bishop, in whose diocese they were dining, or His Eminence?

Sir Edward's solution was based on a precedent set in 1972 when he entertained the Archbishops of Westminster and Canterbury in Downing Street. There was consternation among staff over who should sit on the PM's right. "And then just before dinner they came running up to my room and asked who would say grace," says Heath. "I said *I* would."

Pink ladies

THE Princess of Wales appears to have been keeping her favourite designer, Catherine Walker, busy once more. Fashion pundits remarked on the powder pink outfit she wore yesterday as she was whisked from Lahore airport — it was almost a replica of the blue shalwar kameez that her hostess Jemima Khan wafted around in at her evening wedding reception.

Jemima's blue outfit was a Catherine Walker number, but yesterday the shop would neither confirm nor deny kitting out the Princess for Pakistan. However, one or two designers were sniffy about the creation, pictured on our news pages. "It makes her look very busty," commented one.

New show

THE Royal Academy is branching out into theatre. It has commissioned a one-man show by the comedian John Sessions about the life of the Victorian painter Frederic Leighton next month.

Sessions will play all the Victorian characters himself, updating them to bring a populist air. Leighton will be portrayed as Hugh Grant; Prince Albert as Arnold Schwarzenegger; Ruskin as Dirk Bogarde; and a heated artistic exchange between Géricault and Delacroix will be conducted in the voices of two Italian-Americas Joe Pesci and Robert De Niro.

P·H·S



John Sessions with a statue by Frederic Leighton





STRASBOURG'S SHADOW

Politicians have a part to play in setting sentences

The European Court of Human Rights has not endeared itself to British popular opinion. Last year the Strasbourg judges ruled in favour of the relatives of three IRA terrorists killed while on active service in Gibraltar. Yesterday it concluded that the powers of the Home Secretary to keep juvenile killers in prison should be curtailed.

The rule of law certainly requires a limit on the executive's intervention in administering justice. But if respect for the criminal justice system is not to fray further than it has already, then judges, especially foreign ones, should recognise that elected politicians have a role in reflecting popular concerns in the most sensitive cases.

Familiar voices, those inclined to foam whenever "Europe" intervenes in the affairs of these islands, have pressed again for the government to remove Britain from the ECHR's pale. But it would be wrong for the UK to stage a curmudgeonly retreat when the people of the fledgling democracies of Eastern Europe are being brought within the court's protection. That does not mean that its every judgment is a cause for satisfaction. Yesterday's decision may not, in practice, have the dramatic effect some critics fear but its implications are not welcome.

The Strasbourg judgment does not undermine the Home Secretary's capacity to set the minimum sentence in murder cases. The killers of Jamie Bulger were initially imprisoned for a minimum of eight years. The Home Secretary subsequently insisted it should be at least fifteen. His power to do the same in any future case is, still, unaffected. That power is, however, due to be reviewed by the ECHR in the future in a case brought on behalf of Bulger's killers.

Yesterday's ECHR ruling relates to the notion of indefinite detention, "at Her Majesty's pleasure". At present the Home Secretary can keep juvenile offenders in prison after the tariff has expired, until he is satisfied they are no longer a danger to the public. His decision is guided by the Parole Board but ultimate discretion rests with him, subject to judicial review. The ECHR argues this power should go and holds that detention should be a matter for the courts not the executive.

In general, it is right that sentencing should be a matter for the courts, and the British sense of liberty is disturbed by the idea of incarceration being decided by politicians. But there are exceptions, and it is important they be maintained. When capital punishment was abolished the state relinquished a power to maintain order which still enjoyed widespread popular support. At the time parliament made a compact with the people: the Home Secretary would retain the power to fix a basement for sentences in certain capital crimes.

Politicians, responsive to the concerns of an electorate who demand, and deserve, retribution for uniquely heinous crimes can act as the guardians of popular feeling when determining punishment. The maintenance of public faith in criminal justice, and the durability of the rule of law, depends on the occasional intervention of those elected to represent popular concerns.

It would, for that reason, be preferable to see the Home Secretary decide when children who have killed are fit to be freed. It is in just such sensitive cases that politicians should act as protectors of the public interest. But, even more than maintaining discretion on eventual release, it is desirable that the Home Secretary's power to set the minimum sentence should be preserved. It is vital the European Court does not use the case brought by Bulger's killers to remove the right to set the tariff. Justice would be ill-served if judges were to break the bond of trust between politicians and people that underpins the British legal system.

DOLE DOWN

New Hampshire has wounded, not anointed

The New Hampshire primary has traditionally created a front-running candidate at the head of a much reduced pack. In 1996 it has failed to fulfil that role. There is only one piece of new information which the Iowa caucuses had not already presented: that Steve Forbes's "flat tax" candidature is of no substance. Although Forbes may attempt to stay in the race for another two weeks, there must be limits to his willingness to fritter away his family fortune. Otherwise New Hampshire has simply reordered what Iowa passed on. Only three candidates can now fight with any credibility — Pat Buchanan, Bob Dole, and Lamar Alexander.

Mr Buchanan's success is striking. With very limited funding he has upset the might of the Republican establishment and enjoyed himself immensely in the process. He remains highly unlikely to be the Republican nominee. As the contest moves to larger states grouped in regional bunches, television advertising will become crucial. Mr Buchanan does not possess the resources to fight over such a wide terrain and is unlikely to acquire them. Press coverage of his past statements and present policies will be intense and unfriendly. When mainstream candidates such as Steve Forbes and Richard Lugar disappear, they and their supporters will not turn to Mr Buchanan.

Instead of anointing a front-runner, New Hampshire has instead wounded one. Although he continues to possess financial and organisational advantages, Senator Dole's unimpressive performance in the first two outings means that his candidature no longer retain its aura of inevitability. In effect there is no front-runner left for the Republican nomination. Mr Alexander has a real chance to become one, but to do so he needs an outright triumph in at least one of the five contests — Delaware, Arizona, North Dakota, South Dakota and South Carolina — spread over the next ten days. If Mr Alexander can demonstrate the ability to win, then the consequence of Mr Buchanan's ultra-conservative strength would be to produce a moderate as the final victor.

Both Senator Dole and Mr Alexander, however, need to reflect on why Mr Buchanan has performed so well. In essence it is because he alone has articulated a message and offered precise (if rather peculiar and unconvincing) policies. The Dole campaign has milked the themes of character and experience for all they are worth. These are fine virtues but not enough in themselves. Americans need to know where the Senator stands. To what extent is he a convert to the Gingrich agenda outlined in the "Contract with America"? Is he now the best hope of those favouring pro-growth, anti-tax measures, or is he still, in Mr Gingrich's cutting words of a decade ago, "the tax-collector for the welfare state"?

As for Mr Alexander, he is against Washington and for the states. He also claims to be best placed to defeat Bill Clinton in November. Beyond that he is best known for his taste in music and shirts. To realise his potential he must start mixing more firm positions among his campaign themes.

If the two moderates fail to develop their message, then Pat Buchanan will be a force in this election for longer than many suspect. Even in eventual failure, he could succeed in moving the Republican agenda towards a fatal outcome for the final standard-bearer. Bill Clinton's record in office has hardly been so stellar as to deserve a second term without severe cross-examination. America is entitled to a proper battle. Unless Senator Dole and Mr Alexander find positive reasons to back their election bids, the final nomination will prove a dubious prize.

BOOKS, BITS AND BUNGLES

The Great British Library Disaster (continued)

It can be only a matter of time before someone writes a book chronicling the foul-ups and farce which have turned the building of the British Library at St Pancras into a thirty years' war between readers, librarians and the Department of National Heritage. In April, as we report today, the National Audit Office will publish fresh criticism to add to the appalling catalogue that awaits the historians.

The well-known fiascos — 2,000 miles of faulty cabling, 5,000 dud sprinkler heads, an aborted computer system and years of delay — were mainly avoidable, the NAO concludes. The library's shelves will already be full to capacity by the time it opens. Attempts to discover who is to blame for this daisy chain of bungles never succeed. To be turned into a Hollywood disaster movie, the story would require the scriptwriters to add only a romance or two and a happy ending.

Meanwhile, over a period similar to that needed to construct a medieval cathedral, the idea of a library as a piece of monumental architecture has become less important. In societies where words can be stored and moved as electronic bits, a library of books will soon come to be only one part of the written heritage. The balance of the librarian's task shifts away from acquisition and preservation towards helping readers find their way through the anarchy of the Internet. Karl Marx, had he lived now, might never have had to visit the Bloomsbury reading room. He could have researched *Das Kapital* on-line.

Books, in one literary critic's happy phrase, are "funny little portable pieces of thought". A copywright library amasses the experience condensed into books and by degrees becomes society's memory. Adapting to the electronic revolution while preserving the legacy of the past requires a programme to rescue books which have already deteriorated and a capacity to absorb the output of electronic publishers. A million-and-a-half of the library's 18 million books are thought to need repair. No law yet obliges electronic publishers to deposit with any library. Should some part of the existing book collection be put on to disc? But at what speed and on which software? Almost every available system will be obsolete long before readers have lost interest in the material. The Library must try to preserve a service defined by the British Museum Act of 1753 as for "Publick use to all Posterity".

The librarians must simultaneously act against the mice nibbling in the Bloomsbury stacks and keep pace with the rolling computer revolution in access to the written word. The British Library's planners are aware of these issues but their time, energy and money have been distracted for decades by the enervating struggle over St Pancras. Not only money has been wasted.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Scott: a Falklands parallel denied

From Lord Carrington, CH

Sir, Since the publication of the Scott report there has been much talk of the resignation of the ministers involved, and in this context my name has been mentioned.

I see no parallel between the invasion of the Falkland Islands and the arms for Iraq inquiry. The assessment made by the Foreign Office of the likelihood of an Argentinian invasion of the Falklands was wrong and I, as Foreign Secretary, properly took responsibility and resigned.

Mr Waldegrave was neither in charge of the Department nor was the policy at fault. In his and his colleagues' judgment, the guidelines on the export of arms to Iraq were not changed. Scott himself accepts that that was their judgment at the time, and that it was honestly held.

Parliament was informed that "the guidelines on the export of defence equipment to Iran and Iraq are kept under constant review and are applied in the light of prevailing circumstances including the ceasefire". No weapons were ever exported.

Mr Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell are two of the most honourable men in public life. If either of them felt that they had acted in any way improperly, they would at once have handed in their resignations to the Prime Minister. In my view, they are right not to have done so.

Yours faithfully,
CARRINGTON,
32a Ovington Square, SW3.
February 20.

Labour and pensions

From the Secretary of State for Social Security

Sir, In your recent leader ("Lilley's logic", February 8) you reported my criticisms of Labour's proposed "guaranteed minimum pension". Such a guarantee would be a powerful disincentive to save — since people would lose up to a pound of the guaranteed pension for every pound of private pension.

In his letter to you today Chris Smith, MP, writes that "Labour has *not* made a commitment to a guaranteed minimum pension". This contradicts Tony Blair's declaration at the 1995 Labour Party conference that, "we are looking at ways . . . to guarantee a minimum standard of living for our pensioners. The aim of the policy is to . . . guarantee a minimum income that provides dignity in old age".

In the House of Commons yesterday, I challenged Chris Smith to explain this contradiction. He replied, "pensions and incomes are different".

Some people might describe this distinction as sophistry. No doubt Chris Smith had no duplicitous intent. But his letter was certainly apt to mislead.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LILLEY,
Department of Social Security,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall, SW1.
February 21.

Foetal pain

From Mr Dickinson B. Cowan, FRCOG

Sir, The article by Jeremy Laurance, "Can an unborn baby feel pain?" (Body and Mind, February 13), raises issues which have been largely ignored by doctors, midwives and many women.

What is the foetal perception of labour? Is it painful? If so, does this matter? Is the perception of pain by the foetus a necessary requirement? Does the perception of pain have consequence after birth?

These are not easy questions, but when choices are made about analgesia in labour the need for foetal analgesia is not considered.

The epidural is commonly chosen because it does not get through to the foetus; but perhaps there is foetal advantage with an analgesia such as Pethidine, which does cross the placenta.

Yours sincerely,
DICKINSON COWAN
(Consultant obstetrician),
The Portland Hospital,
205-209 Great Portland Street, W1.
February 14.

Farrant case

From His Honour Judge Peter Smith

Sir, Mr Peter Doyle (letter, February 17) asks how, if caught, Victor Farrant might have a fair trial if his jury knows him to have a previous conviction for rape.

Most people might wonder how his trial could be fair if the jury trying him erroneously assumed him not to have such a previous conviction.

Surely it is time for modern juries to be trusted with fuller information about the person they are trying? Presently they are told of an accused person's good character, if he has one, and how such a fact goes to his credibility and lack of propensity to commit the crime charged, but, in the vast majority of cases, they are not trusted with knowledge of the defendant's previous convictions.

Yours sincerely,
PETER SMITH,
c/o Manchester Crown Court,
Crown Square, Manchester.
February 17.

A time for talk, not blame, to break the Irish deadlock

From Professor Karl Mackie

Sir, I hesitate to tread where UK and Irish diplomats have regularly fallen into the mire, but I wonder when the British and Irish Governments will show more imagination on the appointment of an effective mediator.

It is long overdue. Senator Mitchell's terms of reference were partial and open to instant dispute on publication despite an admirable attempt at defusing the situation. A genuine mediator role would have contained the flexibility to allow dialogue to continue for a longer period towards perhaps more fruitful results.

The examples are already there — Richard Holbrooke in Bosnia, the Norwegians Terje Larsen and Mona Juul in the Middle East, John Hume of SDLP as a peace broker stands out for his courage. However he lacks, along with other less public mediators working in Ireland, the qualities introduced by a mediator with no history or interest in the subject-matter in dispute.

The two governments have a similar problem. Neutral mediation is not a universal panacea but at least it offers an extra dimension to one dimensional conflict.

Yours sincerely,
KARL MACKIE
(Chief Executive),
Centre for Dispute Resolution,
7 St Katharine's Way, E1.
February 20.

From Ms Hilary Bradt

Sir, The absence of war is like the absence of pain: too easily disregarded until it recurs. As Libby Purves said with her usual eloquence ("Silence the peace saboteurs", February 20), this is a time for talk, not a time for blame. But in order to talk we must end the deception that "our" side has done no wrong, historically or politically.

We must accept that some of the responsibility is ours, and therefore that concessions must be made. At the beginning of the ceasefire, for instance, could not the Government have apologised for Bloody Sunday as the first step towards negotiations and a permanent ceasefire?

Yours sincerely,
HILARY BRADT,
Grey House (Flat),
Beeches Drive, Farnham Common,
Buckinghamshire.
February 20.

From Mr Anselm Kuhn

Sir, Libby Purves is unfairly hard on David Frost who asked Gerry Adams whether he would urge people to "grass" on suspect bombers.

On the contrary, we need more such simple and direct questions which — at soundbite level — deny republican spokesmen the opportunity for wriggling, equivocation and weasel words and clearly expose them and the views they hold.

Yours sincerely,
ANSELM KUHN,
105 Whitney Drive,
Stevenage, Hertfordshire.
February 20.

From Professor J. Heywood

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("When big is ugly", February 14) writes of "the steady recovery by [Northern Ireland] of its economic and political self-confidence" and the need to restore local democracy for "what else has all the international diplomacy been about but finding a way of getting Protestant and Catholic to share in the running of local hospitals, parks and housing estates?". This, he argues, is what hundreds of local councillors are doing already. What is wanted is a substantial strengthening of local democracy, not the "big solution".

Last week the force of his argument was powerfully demonstrated to me. In Liverpool, its past ridden with religious division, I saw an Anglican bishop clapped at mass in the Catholic cathedral, and on the following day at the funeral mass for Archbishop Worlock, a non-conformist minister read the prayers at the offertory, including the Hail Mary.

The churches and people of Liverpool have demonstrated most powerfully what can be achieved at community level. This is surely what should be encouraged in Northern Ireland where SDLP, Sinn Fein and Ulster Unionist councillors are already working together toward the peaceful management of their communities.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HEYWOOD,
University of Dublin,
3133 Arts Building,
Trinity College, Dublin 2.

From Mr Andrew Simpson

Sir, Let's suppose that the Irish invaded Britain in 1171AD, and occupied our beautiful land for the best part of 800 years. I imagine we British would have looked on "resistance" as a sacred duty, and would have bombed and murdered with gusto; and would have scoffed at the occupying power's attempt to brand us as "terrorists".

Let's suppose that, in response to our spirited resistance, the Irish imperialists finally decided to withdraw from Britain in about 1920, with the exception of Lancashire. Lancashire is Irish, they would perhaps have said; the majority of the people living in Lancashire are Irish (we know because we put them there), and they say Lancashire is Irish, so it's Irish. I imagine that our British response would have been to continue resisting (bombs and all) until Lancashire was given back.

In my view we British are under a moral obligation to return Northern Ireland to the Irish nation, and we need not be surprised if "the armed struggle" continues until we do so.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW SIMPSON,
4 Broomsgrove, Pewsey, Wiltshire.
February 20.

Business letters, page 27

Doctors lured from the Third World to prop up NHS

From Dr Alan B. Shrank

Sir, Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg (letter, February 15) complains, on behalf of his native land, that NHS trusts are luring South African doctors to work here at the expense of their own health service. He is right to do so. However, the corollary to this fact — that the UK is no longer self-supporting in medical graduates — is equally deplorable.

The NHS reforms of the past six years have overburdened doctors with paperwork at the expense of clinical care and lay managers try to dictate the clinical priorities, often for commercial reasons. As a result, working in the NHS has become so unattractive that, according to my calculations, some 40 per cent of medical students eventually do not want to work in NHS general practice or hospital practice. Salaries may not be the issue, but the latest review body pay award does nothing either to persuade young doctors to work in the NHS or dissuade senior doctors from taking early retirement.

We have always provided postgraduate education for foreign doctors, but now over 30 per cent of doctors in training in NHS hospitals are non-EU citizens. They can only stay here for four years, so they will not become either NHS consultants or general practitioners. With large numbers of senior doctors taking early retirement the scarcity of highly qualified doctors will lead to a serious decline in the standards of care provided by the NHS.

The Home Office has recently withdrawn the need for work permits for doctors who are not EC citizens, thus depriving other countries of their much-needed doctors whose training they have funded. We should be deeply ashamed that, because we have made our NHS so unattractive to our own medical graduates, poorer countries are being bled of their own doctors.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN B. SHRANK
(Vice-President, Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association),
20 Crescent Place, Town Walls,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
February 16.

From Professor Eldryd Parry

Sir, Sir Raymond Hoffenberg's letter could have been written from many Anglophone countries of sub-Saharan Africa which for years have been unable to pay competitive salaries, and thus have lost skilled professionals to other countries and to international agencies within and outside Africa.

Indeed, since the end of apartheid, some of this loss has been to South Africa itself, and it would be interesting to know whether the recruitment of medical officers from Cuba, mentioned by Sir Raymond, is for posts in the excellent urban centres or for the formerly neglected rural areas. Few doctors trained in a modern hospital in a major city want to go to a remote rural area: most are trained in modern and technically advanced medicine by highly skilled professionals who become their role models.

The problems that arise from the loss of professionals can be alleviated if medical students in developing countries are equipped with skills which they can apply confidently in a rural posting, if a system of continuing education for professionally isolated doctors can be developed and if schools and reasonable common services can be provided in rural areas.

The Tropical Health and Education Trust has been working since 1989 with a number of medical schools in sub-Saharan Africa to meet some of these objectives. It is also actively engaged with the Ministry of Health in Uganda in a pioneer programme of continuing education for medical officers and medical assistants in rural hospitals and hopes to make this a model for other African countries.

Yours sincerely,
ELDRYD PARRY
(Chairman),
The Tropical Health
and Education Trust,
1 Park Square West, NW1.
February 16.

From Dr Asoka Thenabadu

Sir, I am surprised the complaint by Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, a recent president of the Royal College of Physicians, that the NHS is "poaching" doctors from his native South Africa, should be confined to that country.

The National Health Service has traditionally depended on doctors from many Third World countries to fill their middle-grade posts, and most of these countries have lost a large percentage of their doctors to Britain over the last 40 years.

Surely Sir Raymond, when he was President of the Royal College, could have used his influence to shape medical education and training in the UK in such a way that the NHS did not need to "poach" from anywhere in the developing world.

Yours sincerely,
ASOKA THENABADU
(Managing Director),
Stat Locums Medical Agency,
29 Longdown Lane North,
Epsom, Surrey.
February 15.

Restaurant tips

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset and Devon East (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, Bernard Levin's article "Why you never tip an equal" (February 17) quoted a number of London restaurants which now add a 12.5 per cent service charge to the bill. But there is another aspect to which he might wish to turn his attention — the rip-off of charging service on the total bill *including VAT*.

A trendy eatery in St James's added an "optional" service of 12.5 per cent to my bill recently on top of the 17.5 per cent VAT. So the total service worked out at nearly 15 per cent (14.68 per cent) not 12.5 per cent.

If service charges are to be added to restaurant bills, they should be calculated on the price of the meal *without* VAT.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN CASSIDY,
11 Esmond Court,
Thackeray Street, W8.

From Mr David Aylwin

Sir, The word "tip" was, I believe, originally an acronym for "to insure promptness". In the coffee houses of Dr Johnson's day, customers would negotiate a tip *before* ordering. If they received the service they had requested — such as to be out within 60 minutes — they gave the agreed amount; if not, they didn't.

With the trend to performance measures today, perhaps the climate is right for a return to such a system — say, £1 per smile and £5 for every conversation left uninterrupted.

Yours truly,
DAVID AYLWIN,
Blueberry Cottage, Mount Road,
Philpot Lane, Chobham, Surrey.
February 17.

From Major F. N. L. Chapman

Sir, I read with a degree of scepticism Bernard Levin's article. An official with whom I served in the Indian Army also never tipped "on principle".

He was condescending to waiters, postmen, dustmen, shop assistants and carol singers. His principle of not tipping must have been meanness for he deprived the underpaid of that little extra income which can make life easier.

I shall certainly continue to tip those who serve cheerfully and well until they are paid an "equal's" salary, especially if Bernard Levin can adequately define what an "equal" is.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK L. CHAPMAN,
The Old Surgery, Gloucester Street,
Painswick, Gloucestershire.
February 19.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Mothering Sunday

From Mrs Susan M. Barnard

Sir, With regard to the report about Mothering Sunday (February 20). According to Brewer's *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* (14th Edition) the flowers traditionally presented on this day are neither daffodils nor chrysanthemums but violets.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN M. BARNARD,
4 Egerton Drive, Hale,
Altrincham, Cheshire.

Entre nous

From Dr Richard Cooper

Sir, Your readers will have been following keenly the French counter-attack against the assaults of *franglais*. Friday's copy of *Libération* reveals the guardians of Gallic culture, weary of *les gags* of the Anglo-Saxons, redoubling their effors (*c'est le rush*), putting the latest technical *kit* to work, including *le on line*, *le joystick* and even *une page de Web*, to ensure a better *ciblage marketing* (targeting) and a clear *split* between the languages, with the happy result that *le boom* is finally over and that foreign encroachments "*restant scotchés dans les starting-blocks*".

Please believe in the expression of my distinguished salutations.
RICHARD COOPER,
Brasenose College, Oxford.

هكذا في الاصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 21: His Excellency Mr Abdul Aziz Mahmood and Mrs Aziz were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for the Republic of Singapore in London.

His Excellency Mr Nurtai Abykaev was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented his Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Abykaeva was also received by The Queen.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

His Excellency Mr Rudolph Thorning-Petersen and Mrs Thorning-Petersen were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Kingdom of Denmark to the Court of St James's.

Mr Robert Dewar was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar.

Mr Anthony Goodenough was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to Canada.

Mrs Goodenough was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr John Doble was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Mr Douglas McAdam was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Mrs McAdam was also received by The Queen.

Mr John Everard (Her Majesty's former Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus) and Mrs Everard were received by The Queen.

Today being Ash Wednesday, Her Majesty attended Evensong in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, and was received by the Bishop of London (Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal) and the Reverend William Booth (Sub-Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal).

After the Service The Queen attended a Reception in the State Apartments.

By Command of Her Majesty, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Chang Hee Roe at 4 Palace Gate, London W8, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Korea to the Court of St James's.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 21: The Prince of Wales today visited the London Borough of Merton to view projects which have been undertaken as part of the Agenda 21 initiative to improve the environment for local people.

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Phipps Bridge Estate, met local residents and saw improvements which have been made to housing in the area.

The Prince of Wales afterwards visited Deen City Farm, Windsor Avenue, and met staff and young people involved in the project.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, this afternoon attended a meeting with employers from across London who are supporters of the Trust's Volunteers Programme, at Merton College, London Road.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended the film premiere of "Sense and Sensibility", in support of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund and the Bristol Cancer Help Centre, at the Curzon, Mayfair, London W1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 21: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended "the Magnificent 7" Dinner at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel, Cadogan Place, London SW1.

KENSINGTON PALACE

February 21: The Duke of Gloucester today presented the Stone Federation's Natural Stone Awards at a Luncheon at London Hilton on Park Lane, London W1.

PETER TRIEVNOR



David Field, assistant curator of the economic botany section at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, with a sacred Amazonian trumpet, one of 75,000 items some of which will go on display in Kew's Museum No 1. The grade II building, closed since 1987, is to be restored with the help of a £1,400,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant

Service dinners

Yeoman Warders

The annual dinner of the Body of Yeoman Warders was held last night at HM Tower of London. The principal guests were:

The American Ambassador, Field Marshal Sir John Stanier, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Gray, Major-General G W Field, Major-General M C M Steele, Brigadier I W Fulton, Lieutenant-Colonel B A Blackwell, Mr Howard 'Scotty' Flink, Mr John E Guido, Mr *Brian D'Arcy and Mr Tom Clancy.*

Council of TA&VR Associations

Colonel Sir Derek Bradbeer, Commodore R.H. Walker, Colonel C.G. Dickie, Brigadier D.H. Hodge, Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barratt and Major R.M. Sherriff were the guests at a *farewell dinner given in their* honour by the Council of Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Associations last night at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. General Sir Edward Jones presided and Colonel Sir Derek Bradbeer also spoke. Among others present were:

The Secretary of State for Defence, *General Sir Brian Kenny, Mr J S* Pitt-Brooke and Major-General W J Courage.

University of London OTC

General Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual dinner of the University of London Officers' Training Corps held last night in London. Lieutenant-Colonel A. Brown, RE, presided.

Manchester and Salford Universities Air Squadron

Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, RAF Strike Command, was the guest of honour at *the annual dinner of the* Manchester and Salford Universities Air Squadron held last night at RAF Woodvale. Squadron Leader N. May, Officer Commanding, presided.

Hanford School

In memory of the late Helen Smith, Head of Music for over twenty years, Hanford School has instituted and will award annually a music bursary to encourage young instrumental players at the School. Details may be obtained from the School Secretary, Hanford School, Childe Okeford, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8HL.

Birthdays today

The Duchess of Kent celebrates her 63rd birthday today.

Mr H.A. Ashmall, Rector, Morrison's Academy, Perthshire, 57; Sir Roderick Barclay, diplomat, 87; the Hon James Bethell, racehorse trainer, 44; Mr Michael Chang, tennis player, 24; Sir Michael Cobham, former chairman, Cobham, 69; Mr J.N. Ellis, trade unionist, 57; Mr Joseph Ettedgui, fashion designer, 60; Professor Sir Brian Follett, Vice-Chancellor, Warwick University, 57; Mr Bruce Forsyth, entertainer, 68; Miss Deborah Grant, actress, 49; Miss Sheila Hancock, actress, 63; Miss Jocelyn Herbert, stage designer, 79; Mr Howard Hodgson, former chief executive, PFG Hodgson Kenyon International, 46; Mr Mike Hollingsworth, television executive, 50; Sir David Jack, pharmacologist, 72; Mr Peter Jacobs, chief executive, Bupa, 53; Mr Edward Kennedy, American politician, 64; Sir John Kerr, diplomat, 54; the Earl of Kintore, 57; Miss Patricia Lancaster, former Headmistress, Wycombe Abbey School, 67; Mr Niki Lauda, racing driver, 47; Miss Frances Line, former Controller, BBC Radio 2, 56; Mr Ian McColl, former Editor, *Daily Express*, 81; Sir John *Mills*, actor, producer and director, 88; Mr Tom Okker, tennis player, 52; Mr Richard Page, MP, 55; Sir Christopher Peterson, former High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, 78; Mr Nigel Planer, actor, 43; Lieutenant-General the Hon Sir William Rous, 57; Sir William *Slack*, former Serjeant Surgeon to The Queen, 71; Mr Ian Stark, showjumper, 42; Lord Strathclyde, 36; Dame Joan Varley, former Conservative Party agent, 76; Miss Julie Walters, actress, 46; Mr S.C. Whitbread, Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, 59.

Today's anniversaries

BIRTHS: George Washington, 1st American President 1789-97, Westmoreland County, Virginia, 1732; Arthur Schopenhauer, *philosopher*, Gdansk, 1788; Thomas Winter, pugilist, Witchend, near Fownhope, Herefordshire, 1795; James Lowell, poet and diplomat, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1819; Robert Baden-Powell, Baron Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout *movement*, London, 1857, (his wife Olave, World Chief Guide, was born on this day, Wingerworth, Derbyshire, 1889); Heinrich Hertz, physicist, Hamburg, 1857; Eric Gill, artist, sculptor and typographer, Brighton, 1882; Edna St Vincent Millay, poet, Rockland, Maine, 1892; Luis Bunuel, Spanish film director, Calanda, 1900.

DEATHS: David Bruce, David II, King of Scotland, reigned 1329-71, Edinburgh, 1371; Amerigo Vespucci, merchant and adventurer, Seville, 1512; Jean Pierre de Crousaz, philosopher, Lausanne, 1750; James Barry, painter, London, 1806; Adam Ferguson, philosopher, St Andrews, 1816; Sydney Smith, clergyman and wit, London, 1845; Sir Charles Lyell, geologist, London, 1875; Jean-Baptiste Corot, painter, Paris, 1875; Hugo Wolf, lieder composer, Vienna, 1903; Stefan Zweig, novelist, Petropolis, Brazil, 1942; Elizabeth Bowen, novelist, London, 1973; Oskar Kokoschka, painter, Switzerland, 1980; Andy Warhol, painter, New York, 1987; Solomon, pianist, London, 1988.

Spain ceded Florida to the United States, 1819.

Frank Winfield Woolworth opened his first "five and 10 cent" store in Utica, New York, 1879.

The Times ran the first classified personal column, 1886.

Dr Selman Abraham Waksman announced his discovery of the antibiotic streptomycin, 1946.

Luncheon

Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Mr Tony Blair, Leader of HM *Opposition*, was the guest of honour at the annual luncheon of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Lord Flowers, FRS, president, was in the chair. Mr Ian Taylor, MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science and Technology, and Mrs Anne Campbell, MP, chairman of *the committee*, were among those present.

Dinners

Lord Gregson

Lord Gregson was the host at the annual dinner of the Parliamentary Group for Engineering *Development held last night at the* House of Lords. Mrs Margaret Beckett, Opposition Spokesman for Trade and Industry, was guest of honour and speaker. Mr Tim Rathbone, MP, chairman of the group, presided.

Royal Society for Asian Affairs

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was a speaker at the annual dinner of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Lord Desai, president of the society, was in the chair. Lord Desai and Sir Donald Hawley, chairman of the society, also spoke.

Guild of Freemen of the City of London

Mr Alderman Clive Martin, Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London, and Mrs Martin were the hosts at a dinner held last night at Merchant Taylors' Hall to mark the end of their year of office. The Master and Mr John M.S. Whitehead, Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company, were the speakers.

Institute of Petroleum

Mr Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, and Dr Richard Wolfson were the guests of honour and speakers at the annual dinner of the Institute of Petroleum held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr David Varney, president of the institute, was in the chair.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.D.F. Arnander and Miss E.M. Wilson

The engagement is announced between Conrad, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Arnander, of London, and Eleanor, elder daughter of Mr John Wilson, QC, and Mrs Wilson, of Belfast.

Mr H.J.C.M. Bailey and Miss E.M. Ogilvie

The engagement is announced between Hugh, eldest son of Mr John Bailey and Mrs Diana Bailey, and Beth, daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Sandy Ogilvie, OBE, and Mrs Gillian Ogilvie.

Mr C.W.B. Baillie-Hamilton and Mrs S.J. Righton

The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Angus Baillie-Hamilton, of Shipton Oliffe, Gloucestershire, and Sandy, youngest daughter of Mr J.E.C. Richford and the late Mrs Hazel Richford, of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

Mr J.B. Basset and Miss L.J. Scrutton

The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Captain B.R. Basset, CBE, and Lady Carey Basset, of Wells, Norfolk, and Lucy, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Simon Scrutton, of Rye, Sussex.

Mr P.J. Cookson and Miss S.C. Singer

The engagement is announced between Peter James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan Cookson, of Windermere, Cumbria, and Serena Claire, daughter of Mr Michael Singer, of Onslow Square, London, and Mrs William Pennefather, of Westmark House, Petersfield, Hampshire.

Mr J.D. Dampier and Miss C.L. Edgecliffe-Johnson

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs Denis Dampier, of West Clandon, Surrey, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Edgecliffe-Johnson, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Mr M.F. Fleming and Miss M.C. Ewing

The engagement is announced between Malcolm, younger son of Mr and Mrs Stuart A. Fleming, of Cluny Gardens, Edinburgh, and Marie Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard G. Ewing, of Dick Place, Edinburgh.

Mr R.B. Gosling and Miss N.J. Robb

The engagement is announced between Richard Bennet, son of Mr and Mrs Robert A. Gosling, of Wetherden, Suffolk, and Nicola, daughter of Mrs Joan Drever-Robb, of Prévessin-Moëns, France.

Dr Y. Hui and Dr E.S-K. Cheung

The engagement is announced between Alexander Yui Hui, son of Mr and Mrs Tat-Loon Koh, of Hong Kong, and Elaine Siu-kwok, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Tse-Ming Cheung, of Hong Kong.

Mr J.S. Kaufman and Miss C. Lander

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, only son of Dr and Mrs L. Kaufman, of London, and Corinne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Lander, of Liverpool.

Mr M. Leadbetter and Miss E.K. Thorpe

The engagement is announced between Martyn, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Leadbetter, of Bedworth, Warwickshire, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr Anthony Thorpe, of Wargrave, Berkshire, and Mrs Angela Sell, of Reno, Nevada, USA.

Mr J.O. Mosbacher and Miss T.M. Strecker

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr Otmar Mosbacher and Mrs Renata Mosbacher, and Tania, daughter of Mr David Strecker and Maren Greve.

Mr H.G. Strudwick and Miss G. Lewthwaite

The engagement is announced between Giles, younger son of Mr and Mrs H.J. Strudwick, of Heanor, Derbyshire, and Georgina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs N. Lewthwaite, of Barholm, Lincolnshire.

Mr N. Wilkinson and Miss J. Killbourn

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr Gordon Wilkinson, of Chingford, Essex, and Ms Sylvia Sullivan, of Loughton, Essex, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Killbourn, of Bean, near Dartford, Kent.

European Engineers' awards

The following United Kingdom engineers have been awarded the qualification European Engineer by the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI) entitling them to use the letters Eur Ing as a prefix to their names:

Ahmadi-Kashani K, Anastassakis S S, Anderson C, Arrowsmith J L, Azad R, Bailey G A B, Battersby S, Bishop C, Blake R, Blaszczynski T, Blyth A, Bula E, Cheshire M, Christodoulou C I, Cooper E, Cox S G, Davies R J M, Dawson P A, Dev A K, Ezechie P, Fairley I, Faithful C, Feather C, Ferrier G G, Forrest S A, Fowler G.

Garforth D, Gledhill J, Goldfinch A J, Grant A, Grundy L, Harnden A, Hart S, Harvey J, Hawkins W G, Kaul P K, Kennedy C, Kirkby B, La Trobe Bateman J F, Lal L F W, Lawson J, Lee J, Luk C K W, Mann A S, MacGregor I, MacDonald M, MacDonell A, Maidment R, Mills B, Moore R, Muir D, Murray S J, Murrison R, Natvig B, Nisbet C.

Osborne B W C, Pearson S, Pickering C A, Prusakowski C, Quinn J A, Ramachandran T, Renwick C, Ridgway A, Roberts B, Rogers C, Rowcroft G, Smith S, Smith B, Smith R, Smith D, Stagg S, Stevenson N, Swan R J A, Tan L C, Taylor R, Tetlow S, Thomson G, Tranmer J, Tricker M, Usherwood R, Ward D, Webber D, Wilkin D A, Williams D, Wilson J, Wiltridge S, Woods C, Woowat A, Wright N, Wright J D R, Yau Y-H.

Latest wills

Mrs Rosalind Ianthe Cornack, of Headley, Hampshire, left estate valued at £3,105,228 net.

Professor Peter Harvard-Williams, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, founding professor of the department of library and information studies at Loughborough University of Technology, left estate valued at £183,300 net.

Major Sir Arthur Ramsay-Hogg, 7th Bart, of Bournemouth, left estate valued at £297,747 net.

Henry Samuel Jacob Ruttle, of London SW19, county court then circuit judge, left estate valued at £578,307 net.

Sarah Parkes, of Felpham, West Sussex, formerly of Worthing, left estate valued at £287,616 net.

After bequests of £10,000 and effects she left the residue equally between St Wilfrid's Hospice, Chichester, and the National Society for Cancer Relief.

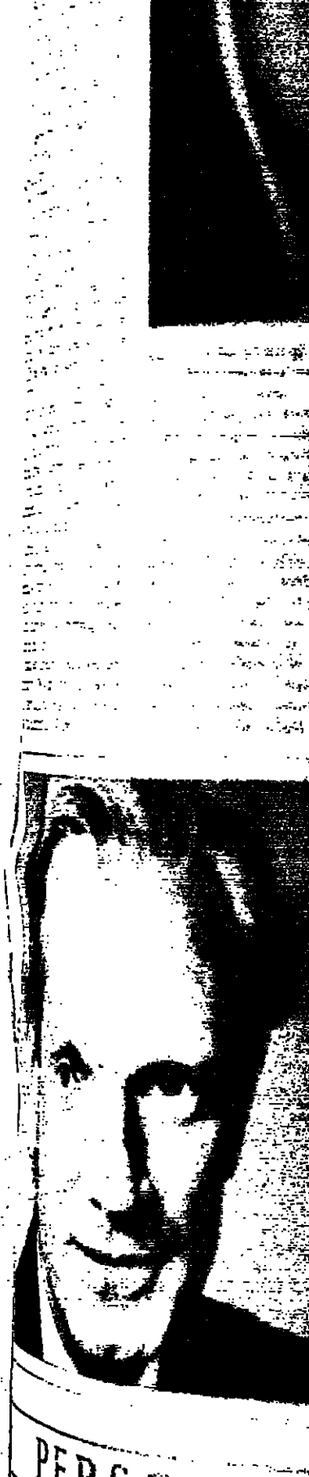
Mr George Schiff, of Elstree, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £1,834,747 net. After personal bequests totalling £684,000 he left the residue to the Schiff foundation charity.

Other estates include (net before tax):

Mrs Alice Mary Bedwell-Hurdd, of Sully, South Glamorgan £716,590

Mrs Mary Eileen Bulmer, of Boars Hill, Oxford £840,870

Mr Theo Crosby, of London E1 ..... £944,964



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Those who want to be rich fall into temptations and snares and into many foolish and harmful desires which plunge people into ruin and destruction.
1 Timothy 6 : 9 (NEB)

BIRTHS

ALLNUTT - On 17th February, to Claire (née Whitbread) and Richard, a daughter, Katharine Mary, a sister for Edward and Christopher.

BADENOCH - On February 17th 1996, to Minnie (née Karandavala) and Alexander, a son, James Brunton.

BODDIE - On February 8th 1996, to Sarah (née Fox) and Simon, a daughter, Susannah Lucy, a sister for Oliver and James.

BOWSEY - On February 14th 1996 at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, to Mary (née Cope) and Matthew James, a daughter, Helen Victoria.

BOSWALL - On February 18th 1996, to Marian (née Entlich) and Rupert, a daughter, Jessamy Sarah, a sister for Phoebe.

CALAMABO - Alexandre Daniel born at The Portland Hospital on February 14th to Jean-Paul and Maria-Jose.

DARBY - On February 2nd, to Victoria (née Chudley) and Keith, a son, James Michael, a brother for Emily, Camilla and William.

ESSEX - On February 20th, to Lucinda and Robert, a son, George Richard Thomas, a brother for Miranda and James.

KINGHORN - On February 19th 1996, to Nicola (née Moody-Stuart) and Paul, a son, Joseph Stuart.

KOHLI - On February 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Nancy and Anil, a beautiful baby boy, Manav Pietro.

O'DONALD - On February 16th 1996, to Jane (Jill Butterfield) and Lewis, a son, Frederick Henry.

SHARP - On February 20th, to Charlotte (née Snagge) and William, a son, Harry, a brother for Thomas and Lucy.

TAYLOR - On January 29th at The Portland Hospital a son Richard Gordon to Kris (née Puszkiewicz) and Michael.

THALLON - On February 4th, to Angeli (née Sarathy) and James, a son, Gabriel John.

BIRTHS

WRIGHT - On February 19th 1996, in Oxford, to Andrea and Jeremy, a beautiful daughter, Amy Elizabeth.

DEATHS

BATES - Terence John Patrick Bates of Purley, Surrey and Ince & Co, Solicitors, London. Funeral Service on Wednesday 28th February at Croydon Crematorium at 12.30 pm. Floral tributes or enquiries to Rowland Brothers, 44 High Street, Purley. tel: (0181) 660-5647.

BRIDGEWATER - Bentley passed away on Saturday 17th February, aged 84, after a short illness. Greatly missed by his many friends. Funeral Service at the Church of St George the Martyr, Queen Square, London WC1 on Friday 1st March at 3 pm. Flowers and enquiries to A. France & Son, 45 Lamb's Conduit Street, London WC1. Tel: (0171) 405-4901.

BRUCE - On February 19th 1996, suddenly after a short illness, Brenda Bruce O.B.E., Actress aged 76. Funeral to be held at Golders Green Crematorium on Tuesday 27th February 1996 at 2 pm. Family flowers or donations to Asthma Research c/o J.H. Kenyon, 88 Haverstock Hill, NW3 2BD.

BRUNDAGE - Barbara in the East Cheshire Hospice on February 19th peacefully with her son and daughter after a courageous fight against cancer. A devoted and much loved mother of William and Christina and loving grandmother of Suzan, Alexandra, Katherine, Rémy and Robin. Funeral Service on Friday 23rd February at 2.15 pm at the Church of the Resurrection, Macclesfield, Cheshire. Flowers or donations to East Cheshire Hospice.

DEATHS

BRITH - On 20th February Diana Evelyn (née Sollom) aged 86 after a short illness faced with grace and courage. Widow of The Rev P.W.F. Erith BA TD, mother of Jane. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Seaview, IW at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 27th February. No flowers, but donations to The Children's Society c/o Eversons, Broadway, Totland Bay, IW.

GOULDEN - Richard Patrick, beloved father of Shoonagh, Christopher and Alasdair, on Sunday 18th February. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Aldershot, 11.30 am Monday 26th February. No flowers please. Donations if desired to the British Diabetic Association.

HARVEY - On February 19th 1996, peacefully in the Conquest Hospital Hastings, Peter Harold Noel, Canon Emeritus of Chichester Cathedral, after an illness bravely borne, aged 79. Beloved widower of Vivienne (1978) and devoted father of Anne, Jude, Simon, Toppy (Christopher), Anthony and Catherine. Fond grandfather of Rachel, James and Ruth and much loved darling husband of Betty from 1981. Requiem Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church Rye, 12.30 pm Friday March 1st 1996, followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations for Parkinson's Disease Society and The British Diabetic Association, to: Mick Howard at Ellis Bros. F/S Ltd., 3 Ferry Road, Rye. Tel: (01797) 222394.

HUTHWAITE - On 17th February 1996 Veronica Joyce Huthwaite aged 83. Sister of the late Lt. Col. Peter Huthwaite and of the late Naomi Patricia Edwards. Founder of and tireless worker for 28 years for The Rhodes Minnis Cat Sanctuary. Funeral Service at the Parish Church Lyminge at 12 noon followed by cremation at Barham on Wednesday 28th February. At her request no flowers but donations to The Rhodes Minnis Cat Sanctuary, Smeetheathe, The Rhodes Minnis, Kent, CT4 6XU would help to continue her work.

DEATHS

KENNEDY - On 16th February 1996, *Hugh Jonathan* Calder, aged 21, posthumous son of Flight Lieutenant Hugh Kennedy RAF. Of a loving nature, and greatly loved by his mother Pamie and brother Alex, he will be sorely missed by his family and his friends. Requiem Mass at SS Mary and Nicholas Church, Littlemore, Oxford at 11.30 am on Tuesday 27th February. Everyone intending the service is invited to join the family for lunch afterwards at the King's Arms, Horton-cum-Studley. Flowers (welcome) to Reeves & Pain, 19 Fairfax Centre, Kidlington, Oxford. tel: (01865) 371189.

KNOTT - Harry, beloved husband of Mary, a dear father and grandfather, born Wallasey 1908, lived Dalchet 1939-1990, died 17th February 1996. Burial Wolvercote Cemetery, Oxford, 11 am Friday 23rd February: Service Wroughton Parish Church 10.30 am Saturday 24th February. Enquiries F/D (01793) 834789. No flowers, but donations please to The Prospect Hospice, Merrywood Road, Wroughton, Swindon, Wiltshire SN4 9BY.

LOUGH - John Archibald Forbes, of Buenos Aires and the New Forest, on 21st February 1996, aged 82 years, peacefully after a long illness. Dearly loved and loving husband of Elizabeth, fond cherished and respected father of Tim, Gavin, Sandra and Robin and grandfather of eleven. Funeral Service will take place at Bournemouth Crematorium on Monday 26th February at 10am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to the Alzheimer's Disease Society. All enquiries and donations to Davies Funeral Services, Wallis House, 28 High Street, Milford-on-Sea, Hants. SO41 0QD. (01590) 644664.

DEATHS

MELINE - On February 20th 1996, peacefully at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, Sheila. Beloved wife of Douglas. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium on Thursday February 29th at 12.30 pm. Flowers to Leverton and Sons Ltd., Funeral Directors, 212 Evershott Street, London NW1 by 10 am.

MORRIS - Canon Thomas Ernest Gilbert Morris peacefully on Wednesday 21st February aged 89. Beloved husband of the late May. Dearly loved father of Elizabeth, grandfather of Quentin and Marcus. Father-in-law of Malcolm and grandfather-in-law of Isabell and Lola. Funeral Service in St Bryneirch's Church, Llandyfaen, Brecon on Saturday 24th February at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations if so desired to Mountain Nursing Home, Ulanuss, Brecon, Powys c/o Peter Evans F.D., Brookfield, Groesffordd, Brecon tel: (01874) 665608.

NEWINGTON - On 17th February 1996 peacefully at home Edmée Mary, fortified by the rites of the Holy Catholic Church. Beloved mother of Jody, Gillian and Wendy, much loved mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St Joseph's Church, Fakland Grove, Dorking on Friday 1st March at 11.30am. Enquiries to Sherlock & Sons, tel: (01306) 882266.

POTTS - Charles MBE, MA, ALA, formerly MOD Library and Mercyhurst Tayloes School, on 19th February. Very much loved by his wife Vera and daughter Rosalind and grandchildren Christopher and Alexander.

PUXON - Mary Cecilia on 20th February 1996, widow of Peter, a much loved mother of Ruth and Elizabeth and a devoted grandmother. Funeral Service at the Ivy Church, Ampney St Mary, Cirencester, on Tuesday 12th March at 12.30 pm. No flowers please.

DEATHS

RAY - Clara Harriett, mother of Richard and Tim, on 19th February at Cheltenham Delacare Nursing House, Cheltenham, aged 96. Funeral Monday 26th February at Cheltenham Crematorium at 3.30 pm. Flowers to Mason & Stokes, 54-56 Fairview Road, Cheltenham, Glos.

SHERBORNE - Mary Frances on 20th February aged 95 peacefully at home, widow of Harry, mother of Janet, William and the late Berwick. Service 2.30 pm Harrogate Crematorium Monday 26th February.

STORRY - Edwin John (Jack), on Tuesday February 20th peacefully at home in his 91st year. Beloved husband of the late Joan, loving father of Rosemary, Alice and Katherine and much loved grandfather to Grete, Caroline, Ros, Hannah, Liz and Tom and great-grandfather to Alexander. Funeral Service on Friday February 23rd at 11.30 am at St Andrew's Church, Broughton. Flowers to Jack Warwick, F/D, tel: (01536) 85535, or donations if wished to The Broughton Church Hall Fund.

STOTT - Cicely (née Ellingham), of Hertford, Herts), widow of Sir Philip Stott Bt, peacefully on February 6th after a long illness, at Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Memorial Service Monday June 10th, 2.30 pm, at the church of St Michael and All Angels, Stanton, Glos.

WELLS - Benjamin Weston on February 20th 1996, peacefully aged 78 at New Victoria Hospital, Kingston. Devoted husband of Jean, loving father of the late Graham and Ian and Jay, and adored grandfather of Dudley, Nick, Georgie, William, Peter and Charles. Funeral service at St Mary's Parish Church, Wimbledon on Monday, February 26th 1996 at 3 pm, followed by Private Cremation. Family flowers only c/o Fredk. Paine, Barnes Park, London SW13. Donations, if desired, to The British Diabetic Association, 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD.

DEATHS

WIGGANS - William, aged 64, peacefully on 20th February, beloved and adored husband of Michelle and sadly missed by his many friends. Service at Mortlake Crematorium on Monday, 26th February at 2pm and afterwards at Royal Mid-Surrey G.C.

WRIGHT - Malcolm Allan of Fetcham, Surrey on February 18th 1996 in hospital after a sudden illness, aged 57. Deeply loved. Husband of Brenda and Father of Helen and of our late daughter Elizabeth. Chief Executive - Industrial Division with BBA Group Plc and Court Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Horners. Funeral Service at United Reformed Church, Church Road, Epsom, Surrey, at 11 am on Wednesday 28th February 1996, to which all are welcome. Followed by cremation service at Randalls Park for family and close friends and afterwards at 16 Ix Rosme. Details of Memorial Service for the City of London to be announced. Enquiries to Hawkins & Sons, Highlands Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. 01372 372436. Flowers to Hawkins, or donations to the British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 4DH - 0171 935 0185.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

BLACKWOOD-CAULCUTT - On February 22nd, 1936 at St Andrews Church, Watford, George Douglas Mervat (R.A.F.), elder son of the late James Hugh Blackwood, to Phyllis Marion L.R.A.M., younger daughter of the late Sir John Caulcutt K.C.M.G.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of GEORGE EDWARD WALDING please contact Reeves & Bridges, Hare Hatch, Reading, Berkshire. (Phone (0118) 940 0671, Fax: (0118) 940 0888.) born in Hammersmith, 1912, served as a gunner in the Royal Artillery, last seen as a bus man in London in 1960's.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00115 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
Mr Justice Neuberger
IN THE MATTER OF
EXPANET INTERNATIONAL PLC
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division Companies Court) dated 7th February 1996 confirming the cancellation of the share premium account of the above Company was registered with the Registrar of Companies on 16th February 1996.
DATED this 20th day of February 1996.
Robert Smith
Linklaters & Alliance
Barrington House, Princess Street, London EC2A 2HS.
Solicitors
for the above-named Company.
Ref: 127

FORD EMPLOYING (UK) LIMITED
Company No: 1234015
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 425(2)(a) and 612 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the Creditors of the above Company (unable to pay its debts) are required on or before the 28th day of March 1996, to send in their full Christian and surnames, addresses and descriptions, their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Peter John Rigg, FCA, FIMC, FRSA, of 20, Old Bailey, London EC4M 7PP, an Insolvency Practitioner, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Insolvency Practitioner, are by their solicitors or their agents to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. Note: The Company is not in any of its known premises for sale. Dated 12th February 1996.
P. John - Liquidator

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OBITUARIES

BRENDA BRUCE

Brenda Bruce, OBE, actress, died on February 19 aged 76. She was born on July 7, 1919



THE *Evening Standard* once ran a bizarre competition. "Is this the plainest face on the English stage?" it asked, pasting the inquiry over a photograph of the actress Brenda Bruce. A furore of response was raised from readers. Though Bruce could never be termed beautiful in a conventional sense — she herself described her looks as "perky" — her tilted upper lip and strong slanting blue eyes gave her face a character and distinction which captivated audiences. She earned a reputation as "the best undamed actress of her generation" and in 1984 she was appointed OBE.

Throughout her life Bruce proved herself capable of turning the tables on fate and triumphing over the odds. Her personal life was scarred by tragedy. Her first husband died of cancer, her second of leukaemia, her son died before he reached his teens. Bruce, bravely resilient, coped with private grief by launching herself into her work. She was enormously adaptable and in the course of a career in which she moved from chorus girl to classical actress, she showed an astonishing breadth of performance both in the theatre and on the television screen. She was able to move from roles in the Royal Shakespeare Company with which she was long affiliated to such experimental parts as Winnie in Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days* in which she spent two hours interred in a mound of earth — "buried up to her diddies in the bleeding ground" as Beckett put it — able to do little else but talk.

Brenda Bruce started acting very young. By the age of three she had already informed her mother that she was going to be a fairy, and much of her childhood, she was later to recall, was spent tottering up and down corridors in high heeled shoes imagining she was Marlene Dietrich. She went to ballet lessons, though she declared herself hopeless, and relentlessly participated in recital and dancing competitions. By the age of 12 she had won a place in the chorus line in a production of *1066 And All That* at London's Strand Theatre. Her life became a crammed cycle of ballet lessons in the mornings, school lessons in the afternoons, and evening high kicks in the Strand.

Bruce was already a seasoned performer by 1936 when she was spotted by Barry Jackson, the grand old man of the Birmingham Repertory Company. Abandoning musicals along with the fragments of an unpromising academic career she fled to Birmingham for three years.

Returning to London during the war she acted a number of roles but enjoyed her first major success at the Lyric, Hammersmith, in 1947 playing Eliza in *Pygmalion*. Shaw became a theme in her life when she went on to appear in the entire canon of his one-act plays at the Aldwych. These were directed by her husband Roy Rich whom she had married in 1946 and who was later to become head of Southern Television and of BBC Light Entertainment. During the 1950s the two of them presented their own television chat-show *Rich and Rich*, filmed in a studio replica of their Bloomsbury flat. Bruce also wrote a weekly column based on events surrounding the upbringing up of her adopted twin girls, and later her son, and though she continued at the same time to act in the theatre, it was because of her children that she gradually began to withdraw from the theatre and its gruelling hours to take up more television work. In 1962 she was nominated Television Actress of the Year having starred in nine productions including *Girl in a Birdcage*, *The Stepfather*, *A Lily in Little India* and *Winter's Tale*.

It was only in 1964 that Bruce joined the RSC, from then on excelling in a number of roles from her first decisive success as Elizabeth Spriggs in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, a part to which she brought all her spirited sense of humour, to her fine portrayal of the fierce, guilt-racked Queen Gertrude in *Hamlet*. In 1968 she and her husband moved to a village near Stratford intending to run a "little pub" — in reality an 11-room hotel with restaurant attached. As indomitable in life as she was in her performances, Bruce would find herself lighting morning fires and cooking dinner for the guests when the chef disappeared, before and after her theatre performances. Often she would take her young son, Sam, to work with her, bathing him at the theatre and putting him to bed in her dressing room, before finally lugging him home after the final curtain. She also became a "company mum", the warm enthusiasm and self-effacement of this lively woman with her distinctive mop of red hair making her a highly sought after friend and confidante among her fellow actors.

However, alongside Bruce's professional success with the RSC ran her first private tragedy. Roy Rich died of cancer. It was only by immersing herself in a full season's schedule of work at the theatre that she managed to keep herself from despair as she struggled to continue running the hotel and look after her children. "One copes," she said. "I don't know what I would have done if I were just a housewife."

In 1970 she married a second time a fellow RSC actor Clem McCallin whom she had known since she was 14. But fate struck a second and then a third cruel blow when soon afterwards her young son died and her husband was diagnosed with leukaemia. Clem McCallin died in 1977.

Bruce's suffering gave her a tremendous vulnerability on stage and in 1987 when she played in a double bill of Arnold Wesker's *Yardsale* and *Whatever Happened to Betty Lemon* —both portraits of abandoned women — she counterpointed unflinching veracity with sensitivity and tenderness.

Her last performance was at the Donmar Warehouse in 1993 where she played a lonely widow. She had also recently filmed D. H. Lawrence's *The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd* for the BBC.

In her later years Bruce worked with unostentatious commitment for both Asthma Research and Amnesty International.

Brenda Bruce is survived by her adopted twin daughters.

TORU TAKEMITSU

Tōru Takemitsu, Japanese composer, died from cancer on February 20 aged 65. He was born in Tokyo on October 8, 1930.



FOR more than three decades Tōru Takemitsu was the leader of a new music in Japan; he was also the first Asian composer to have his works regularly performed in Europe and America. These two aspects of his reputation involved something of a paradox. Where to the Japanese he represented modernity and a faultless command of Western resources, Westerners were more inclined to value the Japanese sensibility revealed in the compactness of his scores and in his fine awareness of natural sound, form, space and balance.

His own feeling, as revealed in his music and in verbal comments, seems to have been that his tradition of choice was French, and in many of his later works he paid homage to Debussy and Messiaen. Besides producing a large quantity of concert music, he wrote the scores for more than eighty Japanese films, including Kurosawa's *Ran* (1985).

He had little musical education. A month after he was born his family moved to China, and by the time they returned to Japan, when he was seven, Western culture was severely out of favour. That made it, to a boy, so much the more glamorous.

He recalled how a wartime propaganda film, showing the sinking of the *Prince of Wales*, had the contrary effect of impressing him with the magnificence of the West; another abiding memory was of a Josephine Baker record he heard as a young conscript, having been called up immediately after he had left school. With his vocation found, he began lessons in 1948 with Yasuji Kiyose, one of the outstanding Japanese composers of the previous generation.

In December 1950 he had his first public performance, when his piano piece *Lento for Two* was played. The next year he was a founder member of a new group, the Jikken Kōbō (Experimental Workshop). Soon after this he discovered Messiaen's music, but he was also learning from Schoenberg, Berg and Webern, and exploring new media. His *Vocalism A.I* (1956), based on recordings of two actors pronouncing those vowels, was one of the first electronic pieces to be made in Japan. Then came his first larger score, *Requiem* for strings (1957), dedicated to the memory of the composer Fumio Hayasaka. The story goes that Stravinsky, on a visit to Japan in 1959, was impressed by a recording of this work.

During the early 1960s his music began to be performed abroad, and at the same time his resources widened in response to what he was learning from American and European contemporaries, especially Cage and Boulez. A number of important scores resulted, including *Piano Distance* for solo piano (1961), *Ring* for flute, guitar and lute (1961) and *Arc* for piano and orchestra (1963). All this while he had been writing exclusively for Western instruments, partly from a sense of shame in his feelings for his own country.

In 1964, however, he was struck again by the power of bunraku, the Japanese tradition of puppet opera, and during the next decade he composed several works involving Japanese instruments. *November Steps* (1967), a concerto for biwa and shakuhachi (lute and bamboo flute) with western orchestra, enjoyed particular success: it was first performed by the New York Philharmonic, with Leonard Bernstein conducting, and was recorded by Bernard Haitink. Aaron Copland also did important work at this time in promoting his music.

His two discoveries of the 1960s — the Western avant garde and ancient Japan — gradually moved into the background, and he returned to his old loves, Debussy and Messiaen, in an abundant output of orchestral, chamber and solo instrumental pieces: he wrote very little for voices.

Many of his orchestral works are concertos, and often they have evocative titles: *A Bouquet of Songs* (1975, with solo marimba), *To the Edge of Dream* (1983, with solo guitar), *I hear the water dreaming* (1987, with solo flute), *A String around Autumn* (1989, with solo viola).

He was widely commissioned, and wrote two works for the London Sinfonietta: *Rain Spell* (1982) and *Tree Line* (1988). Audiences in many countries thus became familiar with his music, and — at the premieres he always attended — with its smiling, gentle, delicately featured and diminutive composer.

He is survived by his wife Asaka and their daughter.

SIMON DYER

Simon Dyer, CBE, Director General of the AA, died from cancer on February 17 aged 56. He was born on October 19, 1939.



SIMON DYER was Director General of the Automobile Association for the past nine years, during a period of healthy expansion for the association, but against a backdrop of recession in the motor industry as a whole. He was one of a new breed of businessmen at the top of the industry, whose performance was matched by a commensurately high salary. Dyer was earning a reported £300,000 in 1991, at a time when the chairman of Ford, Ian McAllister, was earning only half that amount.

But, to his credit, Dyer was not one of those freelance heads of industry who was brought in from outside to turn a business round. He had joined the AA as a young man, worked in every department and was imbued with the association's philosophy.

The AA's profile increased substantially during his period in office. First, there were several successful advertising campaigns: in the late 1980s, two series, one featuring the "very nice men" of the AA, and another which introduced a new catchphrase into the English language — "I can't, but I know a man who can"; and in the early 1990s, a campaign describing the AA as the "fourth emergency service". Membership expanded under Dyer's leadership by 30 per cent to almost nine million. A new domestic emergency service was introduced to attract those who did not necessarily need a mechanic or own a car — those for instance, who required a plumber in the middle of the night. Maps and guides were published, and the AA's insurance division flourished.

The son of a major-general, Simon Dyer was born in Winchester but brought up during the war in India, and educated at Ampleforth, at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he read law, and at the Sorbonne. He qualified as a chartered accountant in 1967, and worked in Britain and French West Africa for Coopers & Lybrand.

He joined the AA in 1967 as chief accountant, and was promoted rapidly through the organisation. In 1970 he was made head of touring and travelling, and established an advisory service to holidaymakers who had made their booking through the AA, and who then found themselves in legal dispute with their tour operator; in 1973 he became director of travel and membership administration; in 1977 he moved to the AA's core activity as director of road service operations. Five years later he was appointed managing director and one of the first executive members of the AA Committee. And in 1987 he was made Director General. He was appointed CBE last year.

Dyer liked tennis, skiing and gardening and was particularly proud when he won first prize for tomatoes at the Kew Flower Show. He spent holidays with his family in a restored house near Vaison la Romaine in France, where he worked on his own small vineyard, and he was eventually able to grow enough grapes to earn the status of a local wine producer.

He is survived by his wife Gay and two daughters.

LUDWIK LUBIENSKI

Ludwik Lubienski, Chief of the wartime Polish Military Mission in Gibraltar, died in London on January 22 aged 83. He was born on May 6, 1912.

LUDWIK LUBIENSKI was lucky not to be on the plane in which General Sikorski, head of the Polish Government in Exile, was killed on July 4, 1943. That night Lubienski had been due to fly back to England with Sikorski, who had landed at Gibraltar en route from the Middle East. But at the last minute his place was taken by a Polish courier who had just arrived from Poland.

Lubienski and the Governor of Gibraltar, Sir Noel Mason-Macfarlane, watched Sikorski take off and, to their horror, saw his aircraft crash into the sea. The crash robbed Poland of any hope for a happier outcome for the country at the end of the war; after Sikorski's death there was no one left of his stature and authority to stand up for the country's aspirations.

Lubienski was born on his family estate at Kazimiera Wielka near Cracow. After law studies at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow he did his national service in the horse artillery and then joined the Polish Foreign Office. Early in 1939 he was appointed secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colonel Josef Beck.

On the invasion of Poland by Germany on September 1, 1939, he acted as liaison officer between Colonel Beck and the Polish High Command. On September 17, after the Soviet invasion from the East, the Polish Government crossed into Romania and was there interned. But Lubienski, who had crossed the border with Beck, was given permission by the latter to try to escape, and managed to get to France where a Polish Government-in-Exile and an army was being formed under General Sikorski.

After the French defeat Lubienski was one of some 30,000 Polish soldiers and airmen who managed to evade capture again and reach the haven of Britain. After several appointments with the Polish Forces in Britain and the Middle East he was in 1943 appointed Chief of the Polish Military Mission in Gibraltar, to which many Poles, escaping from Nazi occupied Europe, were making their way. Lubienski, a good tennis player, became a popular officer and established a personal friendship with Gibraltar's Governor, General Sir Noel Mason-MacFarlane who was, after the war, to be godfather to Lubienski's oldest child.

When Sikorski landed on the Rock in July 1943 on his way back to England from visiting Polish troops in the Middle East, Lubienski, loyal as ever to his old master Colonel Beck, still languishing in internment in Romania, was able to persuade Sikorski to try to get him out, a thing Sikorski's antipathy to the prewar Polish regime had previously made him reluctant to do. In the event, Beck was to die before anything could be attempted.

After the air crash, Lubienski had the grim task of identifying Sikorski's body, but that of his daughter, the Commandant of the Polish woman's forces, with whom Lubienski had been playing tennis just hours earlier, was never found. Later in the war Lubienski served in Italy with the Polish II Corps, attached to its headquarters as officer on special duties to its commander, General Anders.

After the war Lubienski was to share the rootless fate of the thousands of Polish exiles. For a time he worked for Radio Free Europe in Munich. He was a founding member and long-time secretary to the Polish Institute and Sikorski Museum in London.

Ludwik Lubienski is survived by three daughters, one of whom is the actress Rula Lenska. His wife, from whom he was separated, predeceased him by one month.

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ON THIS DAY

February 22, 1859

Night marches in all ages have provided a test of discipline. This one, the report concludes, reached its destination ahead of time, elephants and all.

THE CAMPAIGN IN OUDE.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

CAMP NEAR BRANKEE, Jan. 3

... It is a most difficult matter to organize an expedition in the night in an unknown country. One man may make his way towards a certain point guided by local knowledge, a compass, and the stars, but the direction of elephants, camels and guns over rice-fields, past swamps, forests, ditches, rivers unknown, is a very different matter. If, in the Duke's opinion, there were a few generals who could get a large corps into Hyde Park, but few or none who could get them out again in broad daylight, it may be imagined that it is by no means simple to the uninitiated to get infantry, cavalry, and guns in proper order, out on the open in a pitch-dark night. Our little 'expedition consisted of the 7th Hussars, headquarters of the Carbineers, 1st Punjab Cavalry, a troop of the Royal Horse Artillery (six guns), the Rifle Brigade, a detachment of Her Majesty's 20th, and a wing of the Belooch Battalion. As Captain Fitzgerald collected 150 elephants, it was arranged that one half of the force should be mounted — five on each of these unwieldy locomotives — the other half marching ... Lord Clyde, with his shoulder bandaged up, was, much against his will, obliged to go in a dooley. It was generally supposed that we were going to aid Grant in some difficulty ... At 8 o'clock the regiments were formed up in front of their camps, and at 8.30 they were marched off with the usual advance guard, into the darkness. Not a light was to be seen, save the glare of watch-fires: but soon there appeared before us, like a light in some wintry sea, one steady flame. A lantern had been mounted on the back of an elephant ... the men were in high spirits. Linkmen with flaring torches after a time were put forward to cast a light on the pitfalls, the heavy ditches, the heavy fields, the ditches, and wells which lay in our course ... The Madras Light Cavalry, a most efficient set of men, were unwittingly left behind. They were formed up in their proper place, but Captain Macgregor did not receive the order to move off and after a long halt in the cold, he rode off to see what had become of the rest. He could not find them. He then marched off his troop, circled round the camp, came back, marched again and after an ineffectual search returned to camp at midnight ... The column once started moved off in a straight line to Bankee. Elephants crashing in one leaden line through gates, over swampy grass, through dall-fields, can outmarch cavalry or infantry, and the latter regulated the pace. The moving light-house guided the officers, and so tramp, tramp, squash, squash, thud, thud, away they proceeded.

هكذا في الاصل

THE TIMES TODAY THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22 1996

NEWS

Blair scraps training levy

■ Tony Blair is to ditch Labour's longstanding policy of imposing a compulsory training levy on employers and replace it with tax incentives to encourage firms to improve workers' skills.

He also intends to introduce "training Tessas" under which individuals would get tax relief on savings set aside expressly for recognised courses Page 1

Sea Empress pulled to safety

■ Salvage experts freed the stricken oil tanker *Sea Empress from the rocks at Milford Haven and towed her to a safer* anchorage after a six-day emergency. What remains of her 130,000-tonne cargo will be offloaded to a smaller tanker. Milford Haven coastguards said the vessel was moving slowly away from St Ann's Head Pages 1, 6, 7

Child killers

The Home Secretary will be forced to hand over his powers to detain child killers indefinitely after the Government was condemned by the European Court of Human Rights Pages 1, 2

Republican turmoil

The Republican party was in a state of shock following Pat Buchanan's sensational victory over Robert Dole in the New Hampshire primary Pages 1, 12

Family sorrow

The family of Ed O'Brien, the terrorist who blew himself up in the Aldwych bus bombing, condemned the IRA and extended their sympathy to victims Pages 1, 3

Living on the edge

George and Jean Scott awoke to find the North Sea just six inches from their back door but the couple are refusing to move from their bungalow at Happisburgh, Norfolk Page 3

Veto in danger

The European Commission gave broad approval to revamping the Maastricht treaty by eliminating the national veto in almost all areas of EU business Page 4

Jane who?

The five most important Hollywood studios turned down Emma Thompson's adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* when it was offered to them in 1990, the producer said Page 5

Tax dodger clamped

A blue Ford Fiesta entered the history books shortly before 11am in Londonwhen it became the first car in Britain to be clamped for displaying an out-of-date tax disc Page 8

Smoking theory

Cigarettes may cause addiction by suppressing the action of a key brain chemical, American scientists report today Page 9

Blair's promise

Tony Blair kept up the pressure over the Scott report by declaring that he would not stand for ministers withholding information from MPs as had happened in the arms-to-Iraq affair Page 10

Iraq missile fear

The United Nations fears that Iraq may be trying to develop a long-range missile that could propel biological and chemical warheads as far as Britain Page 11

EU border row

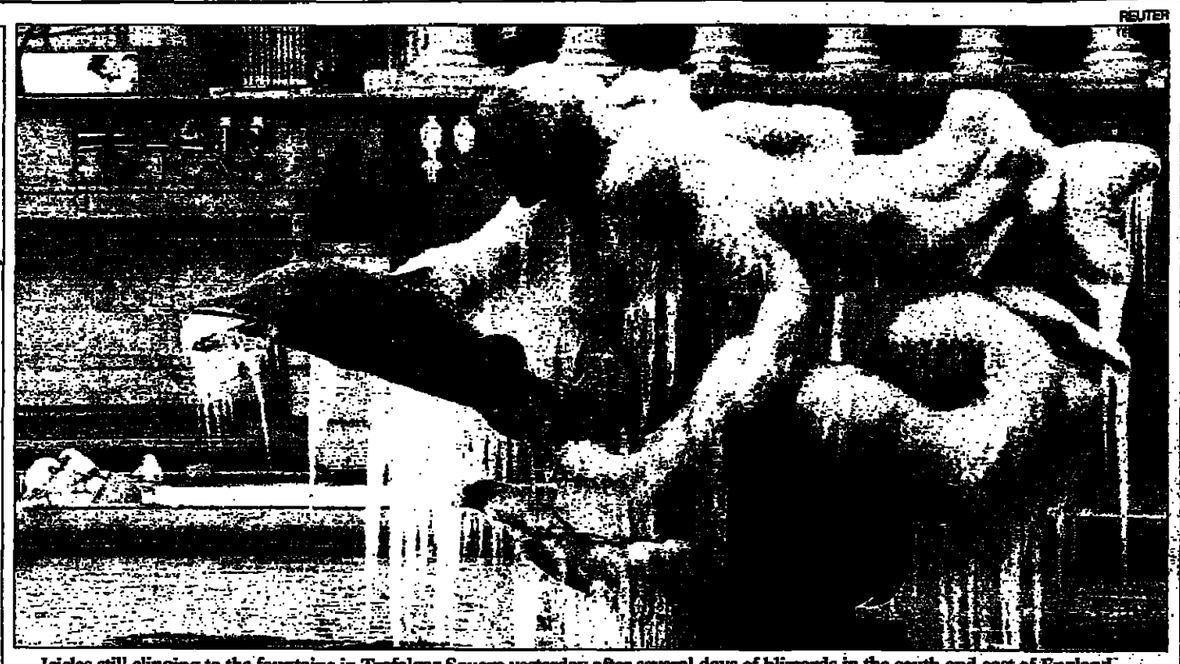
European Union ministers healed a dispute between Spain and Belgium which was threatening the shaky edifice of the Schengen agreement, the pact on open borders among seven continental states Page 14

Art compensation

An art collector banned from selling his Van Gogh painting abroad must be paid £19 million in compensation by the French State, a court ruled Page 14

Princess begins controversial visit

■ The Princess of Wales arrived in Pakistan on a controversial private visit. She said that the sole purpose of her trip was to *help to raise funds for a cancer hospital built by Imran Khan,* the former Pakistan cricket captain. But Imran has declared himself a political opponent of Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister Page 1



REUTER

Icicles still clinging to the fountains in Trafalgar Square yesterday after several days of blizzards in the south and east of England

Identity cards: British banks have come out in support because they would make it easier for customers to open an account, the British Bankers Association told the Home Affairs Select Committee Page 23

Economy: An unexpected fall in January retail sales fuelled speculation that the Government will cut rates next month Page 23

Lloyds Chemists: Gehe, the German company locked in battle with UniChem to win control, raised its bid to £650 million. UniChem responded by launching a market raid for Lloyds shares Page 23

Markets: *The FT-SE 100 rose 11 to 3725.6.* Sterling fell from 84 to 83.7 after a rise from $1.5445 to $1.5448 but a fall from DM2.2457 to DM2.2418 Page 26

Cricket: India, roared on by a partisan crowd of 30,000, defeated West Indies by five wickets in the World Cup. Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by six wickets Pages 42, 44

Football: Graham Taylor, formerly in charge of Watford and England, has been appointed general manager of his old club Page 40

Rugby: John Devereux became the first player to span the divide. The former Wales and British Isles centre is to play union for Sale in the winter and league for Widnes in the summer Page 41

Judo: Charles Palmer, the former *British Olympic Association* chairman, has been awarded his tenth dan, something that nobody other than a Japanese has ever received Page 41

New films: Jane Austen proves the perfect balm for our troubled times as *Sense and Sensibility* comes to the big screen; while Martin Scorsese goes behind the scenes in Las Vegas in *Casino* Page 31

Theatrical transfer: David Hare's brilliant National Theatre play, *Skylight*, transfers to the West End, fresh from its triumph at the Olivier Awards Page 32

Happy birthday: The Royal Opera House celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of its reopening after the war with a performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* Page 32

Winning design: Architecture has a new award, the Stirling Prize, which the profession hopes will stir up as much interest as the Booker and Turner prizes Page 33

Footnote: Shoes are the new way to update an outfit Page 17

Crime and punishment: Rough justice in Moscow, where offences against foreigners are still treated with great severity Page 17

Kindest cut: A mother talks about the skull surgery that saved her daughter from deformity Page 16

Colours of the rainbow: "A liberal democracy has been born, against all the odds, but it will be many years before this achievement is secure." Robin Renwick, former ambassador to South Africa, reviews a commentary on the continuing struggle Page 34

China: John Gittings finds a society of contradictions; of chaos and control and of puritanism and decadence Page 35

Not tired of London: American tourists are ignoring the threat of IRA bombs and booking holidays in record numbers Page 37

To invite Mr Adams into this country would make a mockery of the suffering of those dead and injured, in the blasts in London, as well as the people of Britain and Northern Ireland whose hopes for peace have been crushed by Mr Adams and his friends — Washington Times

Preview: A troubled artist finds contentment in landscape. *Three Colours Cézanne* (BBC2, 8pm)

Preview: Matthew Bond on a new drama series with familiar echoes Page 43

Strasbourg's shadow

The Rule of Law requires a limit on the executive's intervention in administering justice but judges, especially foreign ones, should recognise that elected politicians have a role in reflecting popular concerns Page 19

Dole down

The New Hampshire primary has traditionally created a front-running candidate at the head of a much reduced pack. In 1996 it has failed that role Page 19

Bits and bungles

A saga of foul-up and farce has turned the building of the British Library at St Pancras into a thirty years' war Page 19

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Adam Smith conservatives believe in international competition; Pat Buchanan's constituency believes in national protection behind a slogan of "America First". He is "the wrong kind of conservative", if he can be called a conservative at all Page 18

BRUCE ANDERSON

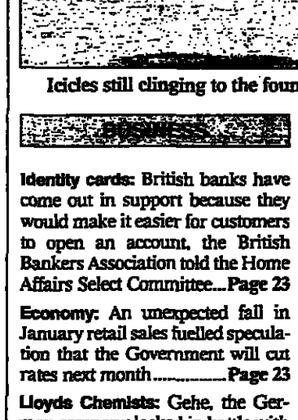
To exchange the great heirlooms of freedom that is the British constitution for the processes of a foreign court would be lunatic Page 18

NIGEL HAWKES

It is small consolation to people whose beaches are contaminated and to birds and other creatures injured or killed, but within a few months the evidence of the spill should have largely *disappeared* Page 18

Brenda Bruce, actress; **Töru Takemitsu,** Japanese composer; **Ludwik Lubienski,** Chief of the wartime Polish Military Mission in Gibraltar; **Simon Dyer,** Director General of the AA Page 21

Lord Carrington on Scott; Social Security Secretary on pensions; breaking the Irish deadlock; doctors lured from Third World tipping Page 19



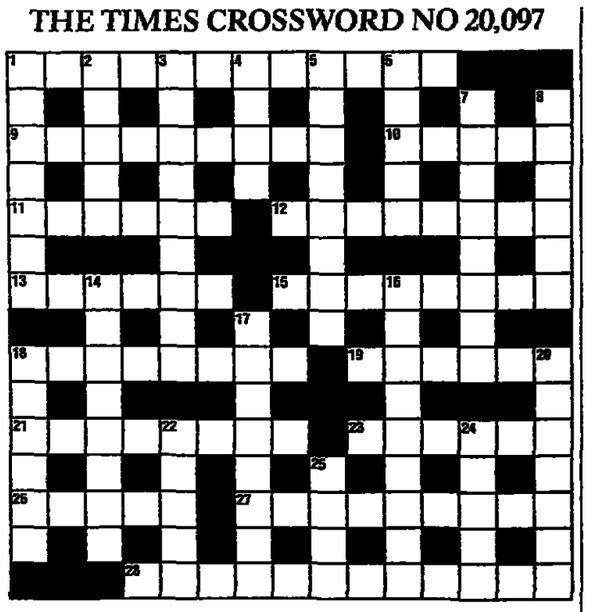
IN THE TIMES

■ **CANADA DRY**
Her witty, hard-edged songs won her a Brit award. David Sinclair meets Toronto's own Alanis Morissette

■ **SECOND DEGREE**
Your guide to postgraduate courses at UK universities



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,097



ACROSS

1 Journalists, two by two, taken to political community (6,6).
9 I subsequently returned a note to settle accounts (9).
10 Superior poet (5).
11 Rake introduced to a French female, not yet 21 (6).
12 Fellow and wife entering city's shell in car (8).
13 Start of play concerning lawsuit (6).
15 Unbreakable car is not damaged (4-4).
18 Watch showing seconds and date (5,3).
19 Solitary island has appeal (6).
21 I reprove converts past their prime (8).
23 Something to be regretted by a part of the Soviet Union (6).
26 Like Siamese or Chinese weight (5).
27 Current stoppage has people cursing (9).
28 Stay calm — he needs a poke to get excited (4,4,4).

DOWN

1 Chemical symbols representing a double sulphate written up (7).
2 Rank held by clapped-out territorial (5).
3 Give someone a ring, then elope frantically (9).
4 We peel Jaffa, soon ending up with zest (4).
5 Cuppa they say all are refusing to drink (8).
6 Drunk names an unknown to win (5).
7 Young O'Hara about to enter artillery unit (not imperial) (8).
8 The world over, knowledge is incomplete (6).
14 Hear about a garment that's a grotesque imitation (8).
16 Do bathers swim in these east coast waters? (3,6).
17 Started and finished as parvenu (6-2).
18 Crush country's spirit (6).
20 *Went over track and prepared for race* (7).
22 In scripture lessons, psalm is missing last verse (5).
24 State with ocean to east (5).
25 Sign showing old people (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

Solution to Puzzle No 20,096

WRITEOFF ARABIA
I N L R A L B
CAUSEWAY FINALS
K R C N A S C I
ERECT KILDERKIN
D D O I P T T
FRENCHPOLISH
A B A C A R E E
PARALLELBARS
I A N E I C C
ASSUMPSIT STALL
R S I E I R N E
ICICLE SCHOONER
E E A A O C I
SERENE PLATONIC

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffs & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	739
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 9C (48F); lowest day temp: Edderton, Dumfries & Galloway, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.31in; highest sunshine: Teignmouth, Devon, 9.4hr

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will see outbreaks of sleet and snow across many central, eastern and southeastern parts. These will become confined to East Anglia and the South East during the morning and will die out later. There will then be a little rain with sunny spells following.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be generally cloudy with some sunny spells, especially in the East. Showers or longer spells of rain will develop through the morning.

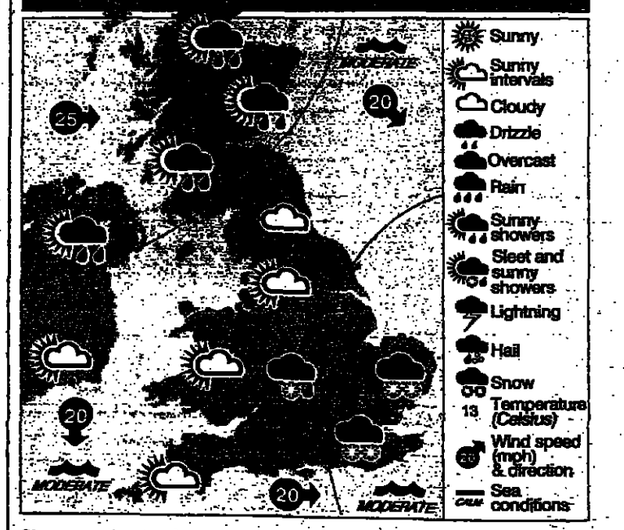
☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia:** cloudy with sleet or snow dying out through the afternoon. Wind brisk, west to northwest. Cold. Max 3C (37F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N:** light rain or sleet, dying out, sunny spells later. Wind brisk, northwest. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, NE England:** rain dying out and sunny spells later. Wind brisk, northwest. Less cold. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** cloudy with showers or longer spells of rain, some sunny spells. Wind fresh, westerly. Feeling cool. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Outlook:** generally unsettled and breezy, with showers or longer spells of rain.



Changes to the chart below from noon: high F will be slow-moving; low W will fill and move into the Continent; low I will deepen and move southeast

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; da=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.02	4	39	r	London	4.7	-	3	37	sn
Anglesey	-	0.10	4	39	sn	Lowestoft	3.9	0.03	2	36	sn
Aspatria	0.4	0.04	1	34	sn	Manchester	6.5	-	5	41	s
Aviemore	-	0.06	3	37	sn	Margate	1.1	0.02	2	36	sn
Ballast	0.9	0.11	5	43	sn	Minehead	5.9	-	5	41	sn
Birmingham	4.5	0.01	3	37	sn	Morecambe	1.8	-	3	37	c
Bognor R	7.1	-	3	37	sn	Newcastle	6.5	0.14	4	39	s
Boumem'th	X	0.01	3	37	sn	Newquay	7.0	-	5	41	s
Bristol	6.7	-	4	39	sn	Norwich	4.1	-	3	37	sn
Buxton	6.7	-	2	36	s	Nottingham	X	-	-	-	-
Cardiff	7.4	-	5	41	s	Oxford	8.6	-	3	37	sn
Clacton	X	-	2	36	s	Penzance	X	-	-	-	-
Cleethorpes	X	-	-	-	-	Plymouth	X	-	-	-	-
Colwyn Bay	2.6	-	4	39	sn	Poole	7.5	-	4	39	s
Cromer	4.3	-	2	36	sn	Prestatyn	X	-	4	39	sn
Dunbar	X	-	-	-	-	Ross-o-wye	6.0	-	5	41	s
Eastbourne	4.4	-	5	41	s	Ryde	X	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh	-	0.07	3	37	sn	Salcombe	X	-	-	-	-
Eskdalemuir	-	0.05	0	32	sn	Sandown	5.1	-	3	37	sn
Exmouth	9.1	-	X	X	s	Scilly/St Mary's	6.8	-	6	43	s
Falmouth	X	-	-	-	-	Scarboro'	6.0	-	3	37	s
Fishguard	3.5	0.02	3	37	sn	Shanklin	X	-	-	-	-
Folkestone	0.6	-	2	36	sn	Shrewsbury	8.5	-	4	39	s
Glasgow	-	0.06	3	37	sn	Sleagness	X	-	-	-	-
Guernsey	2.9	-	5	41	sn	Southend	6.0	-	2	36	b
Hastings	3.4	-	2	36	sn	Southport	3.3	-	4	39	s
Hayling I.	6.7	-	3	37	sn	Southsea	6.5	-	3	37	s
Herne Bay	0.5	-	2	36	c	St. Ives	X	-	-	-	-
Hove	2.4	-	3	37	b	Stornoway	0.2	0.11	8	46	r
Horndean	7.1	-	3	37	s	Swanage	6.0	-	3	37	s
Isle of Man	-	0.09	4	39	sl	Teignmouth	9.4	-	5	41	s
Jersey	5.5	-	5	37	b	Tenby	X	-	-	-	-
Kirkwall	0.1	0.05	7	45	r	Tiree	0.2	0.09	9	48	r
Leeds	7.0	-	5	41	s	Torquay	8.5	-	5	41	s
Lerwick	-	0.22	6	43	r	Tynemouth	4.6	0.01	4	39	b
Leuchars	0.1	0.02	3	37	r	Ventnor	7.7	-	3	37	s
Lillehampton	7.5	-	3	37	sn	West-o-mare	X	-	-	-	-
Liverpool	X	-	-	-	-	Weymouth	9.0	-	4	39	s

Ajaccio	5	41	r	Corfu	12	54	r	Majorca	7	45	f	Rome	10	50	c
Alicante	18	64	s	O'phagn	-6	21	sn	Malaga	11	52	s	S P'laco	14	57	c
Alex'dria	18	64	f	Dubrov'k	1	34	f	Malta	12	54	r	S Paulo	30	86	f
Algiers	11	52	c	Dubrovnik	10	50	c	Mid'hme	22	72	s	Salzburg	-1	30	c
Amst'dm	-1	30	s	Faro	11	52	s	Medco C	11	52	s	Santiago	28	82	s
Athens	17	63	f	Florence	5	41	c	Miami	27	81	f	Seoul	1	34	s
B Aires	24	75	c	Frankfurt	-3	27	f	Milan	6	43	r	Sing'por	30	86	f
Bahrain	18	64	r	Funchal	13	55	c	Montreal	4	39	-	St'kholm	-6	21	s
Bangkok	28	82	s	Geneva	1	34	c	Moscow	-2	28	c	Strasb'g	-2	28	c
Barbados	28	84	f	Gibraltar	12	54	s	Munich	-3	27	sn	Sydney	22	72	c
Barcelona	7	45	s	Helsinki	-10	14	s	N Delhi	24	75	s	Tangier	11	52	s
Beirut	16	61	s	Hong K	7	45	r	N York	11	52	f	Tel'Aviv	18	61	f
Belgrade	1	34	f	Innsbruck	1	34	f	Nairobi	29	84	f	Tenerife	21	70	s
Berlin	-2	27	sn	Istanbul	17	63	s	Naples	12	54	f	Tokyo	8	43	c
Bermuda	19	66	f	Jeddah	27	81	s	Nice	9	48	f	Toronto	-3	27	c
Biarritz	2	36	c	Jo'burg	20	68	r	Oslo	-4	25	s	Tunis	13	55	f
Borde'x	0	32	c	L Angeles	15	59	r	Paris	-3	27	f	Valencia	11	52	f
Brussels	-3	27	s	L Palmas	20	68	c	Peking	4	39	s	Vanc'ver	5	46	r
Budapest	2	36	f	Le Touquet	0	32	f	Perth	31	88	s	Venice	7	45	c
Cairo	19	66	f	Lisbon	16	60	s	Prague	-1	25	c	Vienna	-1	30	s
Cape Tn	21	70	c	Locarno	-	-	-	Reykjavik	-3	27	sn	Warsaw	-2	28	c
Ch'church	12	54	r	Luxembg	-5	23	f	Rhodes	16	61	f	Washton	-8	46	r
Chicago	8	46	s	Lyons	2	73	s	Rio de J	2577	f		Wel'ngton	16	61	c
Cologne	-3	27	sn	Madrid	9	43	s	Riyadh	21	70	f	Zurich	-1	30	c

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.40	7.3	3.08	7.5	Leith	3.32	6.8	3.50	6.9
Aberdeen	2.22	4.5	2.39	4.7	Liverpool	0.02	10.0	12.24	10.2
Avonmouth	8.21	14.8	8.47	14.9	Lowestoft	10.46	2.6	10.45	2.7
Bellast	-	-	12.18	3.8	Margate	0.51	5.0	1.29	5.0
Cardiff	8.20	12.9	8.41	12.7	Milford Haven	7.18	7.6	7.41	7.4
Devonport	6.57	5.8	7.26	5.8	Newquay	6.06	7.4	6.30	7.5
Dover	-	-	12.12	6.8	Oban	6.48	4.3	7.02	4.3
Dublin (N Wall)	0.22	4.2	12.36	4.5	Penzance	5.42	6.0	6.05	6.0
Falmouth	6.21	5.5	6.48	5.2	Portland	7.59	2.4	8.22	2.2
Greenock	1.30	3.5	1.48	3.9	Portsmouth	0.13	5.0	12.30	5.0
Ilfracombe	0.26	4.2	12.57	4.3	Shoreham	0.09	4.7	12.27	4.7
Hull (Albert D)	11.23	6.2	11.53	6.8	Southampton	11.50	4.9	-	-
Ilfracombe	7.04	7.9	7.29	8.2	Swansea	7.30	10.2	7.55	10.4
King's Lynn	7.11	7.1	7.30	7.5	Tees	4.46	5.7	4.58	5.8
					Walton-on-Naze	0.25	4.3	12.49	4.4

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Sun rises: 7.02 am
Sun sets: 5.27 pm
Moon sets 10.12 pm
Moon rises 8.25 am
First quarter February 25

London 5.27 pm to 7.00 am
Bristol 5.27 pm to 7.10 am
Edinburgh 5.21 pm to 7.21 am
Manchester 5.32 pm to 7.12 am
Penzance 5.51 pm to 7.19 am



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هكذا من الأصل



EDUCATION 33

David Blunkett on Labour's vision of lifelong learning



ARTS 29-31

Villains bring out the gags in a zany new play



SPORT 35-40

Watford double act back in the old routine

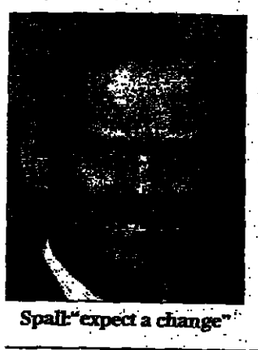
TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 38,39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23 1996

ICI looks at share buybacks and acquisitions



Spall: "expect a change"

BY CARL MORTISHED

ICI, the cash-rich chemicals group, is looking at the idea of share buybacks as part of a drive to make better use of its huge balance sheet. Yesterday, it announced a near doubling of pre-tax profits from £514 million to £951 million for the year after a resilient performance in a fourth quarter that was marred by the effect of customer destocking and lower prices for bulk chemicals.

ICI came through the year cash positive in spite of a 72 per cent increase in capital expenditure to £641 million, leaving the group with net debt of £99 million, a balance sheet gearing ratio of only 2 per cent.

Alan Spall, finance director, said that the balance-sheet was under-utilised. "This is not in line with with good management or our policy and you can expect this to change," he said, indicating that a share buyback was an option. "It is something we are always considering," he said, adding that acquisitions were also on the agenda.

He said that ICI would be comfortable with a gearing ratio of 25 per cent throughout the cycle, rising to 40 per cent for the right acquisition. "That would give us £2 billion to £3 billion of firepower."

ICI has embarked on a drive to improve its return on capital to 20 per cent. It is spending £30 million on management consultants that are helping ICI to hone in cost-saving measures, with a target of £400 million. These will include headcount reduction to help to achieve productivity increases of 5 per cent a year over the next three years.

ICI raised its revenues 12 per cent to £10.3 billion during 1995, with an 8 per cent contribution from higher selling prices in all businesses. Volume growth accounted for 3 per cent and acquisitions 1 per cent of the total. Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman, said that weaker bulk chemical prices would have an adverse impact, but he expected world demand to pick up after a slow start to the year. A dividend of 30p is being paid for the full year, up from 27.5p and covered 2.6 times by earnings.

Analysts said that the plans by ICI to reshape its business and to enhance shareholder value were positive and could trigger a wider reassessment of the group's profits profile, dividend policy, and market rating.

Charles Lambert, an analyst at Merrill Lynch, said that he sees ICI shares trading up to 950p a share, against a previous 750p-850p trading range. He added: "What we are seeing is something of a re-rating. Sentiment overall seems to be positive." ICI shares closed at 857p, up 25p on the day.

Philip Morrish, analyst at Nikko Europe, described the moves announced by ICI as "a long-term plan to shake up the whole business culture and begin to deliver value to shareholders". He said that what was now being seen was "a new ICI".

Tempus, page 24

Gas chief sets up clash with regulator

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH GAS put itself on a collision course with the industry regulator yesterday by declaring that the two sides were so opposed over the price review for TransCo, its pipeline business, that a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission seemed inevitable.

Richard Giordano, its chairman, said Ofgas was seeking to impose controls with a toughness that reflected the cash-generation maturity of the business, and that later down the line British Gas could seek relaxation of those curbs as its capital expenditure demands increased. But that would be unacceptable to shareholders and Ofgas's requests for capital expenditure projections extending 25 years were unreasonable, he said.

The gap between the company and Ofgas was more than a question of figures, Mr Giordano went on. "The difference is more fundamental. It is about how a utility should be managed." The issue was crucial for British Gas, which reported a 21 per cent fall in pre-tax profits, he added. "Sizeable sums of money will be at stake."

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, will decide in the next two months what the rate of return on the pipeline business should be. At present it is set at 4 per cent.

An MMC referral will make it difficult to value TransCo, which will be the profitable half of the demerger when British Gas splits. But Mr Giordano said that the demerger timetable would not be affected, and could be completed by the end of the year, ahead of the scheduled split in spring 1997.

British Gas also clashed with Ofgas by saying it expected that the start of competition in the domestic market, which is due to take place on April 1, would be delayed. Cedric Brown, chief executive, said a probable date would be April 29. But Ofgas said that the starting date remained April 1.

The company also said it could seek an MMC referral over its exposure to the costly take-or-pay contracts, if it was unable to find a solution by other means. It failed in its appeal to the Government for a levy to support its exposure to contracts worth £40 billion, which could lead to losses of £1.5 billion, leaving British Gas to try to renegotiate the contracts with suppliers reluctant to alter arrangements.

Mr Giordano said that the issue could not be allowed to lie because the company was paying the bill. Last year it made a provision of £83 million to cover losses on the contracts but said it expected that amount to be less this year.

British Gas, which at the start of the year appointed a chief negotiator to lead the talks with the producers, said it wanted a solution by the end of the year and expected to report some tangible progress within two to three months. Mr Giordano repeated the complaint that take-or-pay exposure was a legacy from the monopoly era and was a problem that should be addressed by the industry.

The company warned that it would see further erosion in its commercial and industrial business this year as over-supply and cheaper gas from competitors swamp the market.

British Gas has maintained a market share of 35 per cent but falling prices helped to drag its gas-supply operation to a £252 million loss in the year to December 31, more than five times the £53 million loss in the previous year.

Profits in the company's exploration and production division climbed from £295 million to £449 million as new production fed in. The company's overall pre-tax profits of £986 million were curbed by write-downs of £394 million. It wrote down the value of some property and plant by £194 million, while clean-ups on contaminated plants were charged at £200 million.

The final dividend was maintained at 8.1p, making the total 14.5p — the same as the previous year.

Pennington, page 23
Tempus, page 24



Gas mains: Richard Giordano, chairman, right, with Cedric Brown, chief executive, yesterday

Industry is still in the doldrums, says CBI

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PROSPECTS of a further cut in interest rates remain high today as industry's order books continue to fall and business leaders cast doubt on the Government's growth forecast, even though new figures yesterday showed a slight improvement in growth overall.

In the light of a new forecast today from the Confederation of British Industry of only sluggish growth in the first half of this year, and after GDP figures yesterday suggesting that growth is running below trend, City economists held to their belief that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will authorise a further cut in rates to try to achieve the Government's 3 per cent growth target.

City analysts suggested that the Treasury and the Bank of England were "pleasantly surprised" by an upward revision in GDP growth in the final quarter of last year, suggesting that growth was slightly stronger than had been thought.

New figures from the Central Statistical Office revised growth in the quarter up from 0.4 to 0.5 per cent, after stronger output in the service and construction sectors.

Although this lifted the annual growth rate from 1.8 to 1.9 per cent, the annual rate is at its lowest since the first quarter of 1993, and remains on a downward trend.

Forecasters suggested that the revisions carried few implications for policy, and maintained their view that Mr Clarke and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will agree a further cut in rates at their March or April meeting — with the prospect of another cut in summer.

CBI economists are assuming probably two cuts, followed by a rise early next year, in their latest forecast, out today, which sharply cuts their growth predictions for 1996 from the 2.5 per cent, suggested at the time of the Budget, to 2.1 per cent now.

Doubt that the Government will hit its growth target is fuelled by the knock-on effects of weaker than expected performances by manufacturing and construction at the end of last year and the unwinding of excessive stock levels.

The CBI says economic growth will be sluggish in the first half, picking up as the year goes on, and leading to a "robust" upturn in 1997, when GDP is forecast to grow by 3 per cent.

The CBI's latest monthly industrial trends survey today shows total orders falling again.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3740.0	(+14.4)
Yield	3.82%	
FT-SE A All share	1842.98	(+6.83)
Nikkei	20340.94	(-31.29)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5547.75	(+31.79)*
S&P Composite	652.35	(+4.25)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5¼%)
Long Bond	95¹⁄₃₂*	(95¹¹⁄₃₂)
Yield	6.37%*	(6.37%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6⅛%	(6⅜%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	107²⁄₃₂	(107³¹⁄₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5430*	(1.5440)
London:		
$	1.5429	(1.5423)
DM	2.2370	(2.2414)
FFr	7.7135	(7.7290)
SFr	1.8233	(1.8296)
Yen	161.93	(162.33)
£ Index	83.6	(83.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4507*	(1.4492)
FFr	4.9930*	(4.9960)
SFr	1.1815*	(1.1835)
Yen	104.88*	(104.90)
$ Index	95.1	(95.3)

Tokyo close Yen 105.11

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May) $17.50 ($17.55)

GOLD

London close $400.55 ($397.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Californian regulators accuse Lloyd's

BY SARAH BAGNALL

CALIFORNIAN regulators are accusing Lloyd's of London of defrauding more than 500 American names, who are being asked to stump up more than $500 million to meet losses incurred as a result of their participation in the world's largest insurance market.

Lloyd's is one of 250 defendants in the action, which includes dozens of Lloyd's agencies many of which have ceased trading. Also listed among the defendants are David Rowland, Lloyd's chairman, Ron Sandler, chief executive, and Peter Middleton, former chief executive.

The People of the State of California (the state) allege that Lloyd's "has, and presently is, engaged in a scheme to defraud California investors in connection with the offer and sale of unqualified securities in California". The state claims these securities include Lloyd's membership and investment contracts. A Lloyd's spokesman said: "Lloyd's is sure that it has violated no state requirements and can offer a firm defence to all charges."

The preliminary hearing is due to be heard in Los Angeles next week, to which Lloyd's will send a legal representative. The Hon Ernest Hiroshige, the judge, will hear representations from the various parties in order to decide whether the case should proceed to court.

If the plaintiffs are successful, the American names' assets will be frozen until a court judgment is reached. This course of action is being taken in various other American states, none of which have progressed further than preliminary hearings to date.

Rentokil rethink fails to tempt BET

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

BET, the business service company, said last night that it had rejected a new approach from Rentokil to buy part of the company.

The two companies are locked in a hostile takeover battle after Rentokil launched a £1.8 billion bid last Friday. BET said it had rejected the approach for its textile and distribution divisions, together with most of its business service distribution, because it saw "no shareholder benefit in discussing the sale".

The company added that the sale would have meant Rentokil assuming control of key strategic businesses, with strong growth prospects and attractive margins, which were central to the future of the business and constituted three quarters of the group's turnover. Rentokil said that it was disappointed that the BET board had rejected the deal out of hand.

Rentokil denied that the new approach implied it would automatically dispose of BET's plant services and conference and resort management businesses. Last Friday, the company said that it would place these businesses "under review" if its takeover bid succeeded.

It is not clear whether Rentokil was acting under pressure from its shareholders to try to come up with an agreed takeover. But it is understood that the two parties did not discuss a new price. Rentokil's share price closed up 6.5p, while BET rise 1p to 196.5p, 6.5p above the offer price of 190p.

Carlton pulls back from launching bid for MAI

BY MELVYN MARCKUS AND ERIC REGULY

CARLTON Communications' tentative plan to launch a £1.5 billion-plus spoiler bid for MAI, the rival ITV company which plans to merge with United News & Media, owners of the Express newspapers, was effectively aborted yesterday.

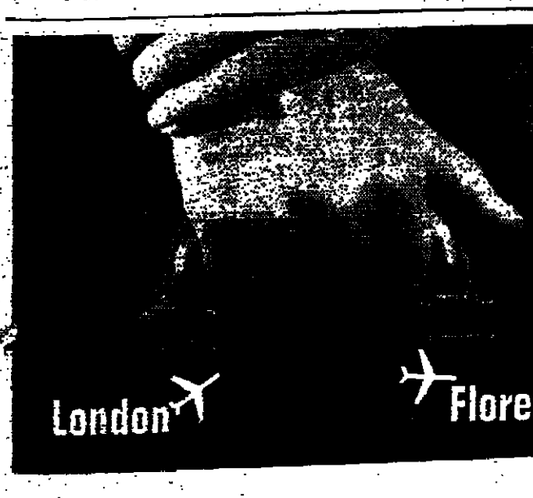
As speculation mounted that Carlton was preparing to launch a hostile bid for MAI next week, the Takeover Panel insisted that Carlton, led by Michael Green, should clarify its intentions. The Panel contacted Hambros, Carlton's financial adviser, shortly after 9am. In response to the Panel's directive, Carlton said that "in the present circumstances, it does not intend to intervene in the proposed merger between United News & Media and MAI". Speculative buying sent MAI's share price up 34p to a high of 470p in early trading. MAI, concerned that its shares were rising in a "false market," then pressed the Takeover Panel to force a statement out of Carlton.

In the wake of Carlton's statement, MAI's share price plunged to 407p before closing 17p lower at 419p, while Carlton's shares, down 22p to 984p in early trading, ended 7p higher at £10.13. United finished at 653p, up 12p.

In spite of the brevity of Carlton's statement, it is widely accepted that the company has been gearing up for an MAI bid. Feelers were put out to Merrill Lynch, the US broking house, earlier this week amid rumours that Carlton was trying to amass a £2 billion war chest.

Sarah Simon, MAI's group development manager, said Carlton would have faced "tough regulatory hurdles" because the purchase of MAI, owner of the Meridian and Anglia ITV franchises, would give it about 36 per cent of ITV advertising revenue against the 23 per cent it now controls. Carlton made an undertaking with the Office of Fair Trading in 1994 to control no more than 25 per cent.

Analysts think Carlton might buy minority stakes in a couple of the smaller ITV companies, such as HTV or Scottish Television, in the hopes that the advertising control limit will eventually be raised.



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هكذا في الاصل

Duke angered by nuclear sale leak

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

DUKE POWER, the American utility at the centre of increasing confusion over the planned privatisation of British Energy, the core of Britain's nuclear power industry, said yesterday it would be more careful in its dealings in the UK.

Clearly irritated after the Department of Trade and Industry revealed that it had indicated an interest in the sale, Duke said it had shown an interest through Schroders, the merchant bank, but that the price and liabilities had made the UK's nuclear plant unattractive. Randy Wheeleff, a spokesman for Duke, said the company had been surprised at the portrayal of its interest. "We shall learn from this the next time we are dealing in the UK."

Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, surprised the City when he said the Government would consider a trade sale and that Duke Power had made an indirect approach. His remarks were made on the day the Parliamentary trade and industry select committee produced a critical report on the planned privatisation of British Energy.

The US company added to the confusion when it both denied an interest and confirmed talks between Schroders, on its behalf, and BZW, adviser to the DTI.

No one was available for comment at Schroders yesterday, but it also is understood to be unhappy with the leak. Mr Wheeleff said Duke would continue to monitor the situation but did not expect any fresh communication in the near future. "The price and some of the liabilities on the plants would make it unattractive to us," he said.

The DTI and the Treasury are wrangling with directors of British Energy over what proportion of the company's £8 billion decommissioning liabilities will be funded from revenues, and how much from the levy on consumer bills.

The DTI stuck rigidly to its statement of the previous day when it said an indirect indication of interest had been shown by Duke Power.

Pensions court ruling

MEMBERS of occupational pension schemes in dispute with their trustees will be able to claim compensation for distress and inconvenience after a High Court ruling yesterday (Sara McConnell writes).

Mr Justice Robert Walker held that the pension ombudsman was within his powers to order scheme trustees to make distress payments irrespective of financial loss. Julian Farrand, the present ombudsman, has consistently argued that he should be able to make such awards, but, until now, the legal position was unclear.

The judge held that the ombudsman could tell Westminster City Council to pay £1,000 for distress to a redundant worker misinformed as the pension it would pay.

Norman Russell, solicitor for the ombudsman, later said: "Consumers will have to be treated decently by trustees."

MICHAEL POWELL



CHRISTOPHER NORLAND, chairman of Frank Usher, with Miranda Taylor who is modeling the clothes that earned the womenswear group pre-tax profits of £1.14 million (£1 million) in the six months to November 30. The interim dividend, due April 3, was lifted from 3.5p to 4p and is payable out of earnings of 11p a share, up from 9p last time.

Carnival acquires stake in Airtours

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

CARNIVAL Cruise Corporation, the world's largest cruise company, is to pay more than £200 million for a 29.6 per cent stake in Airtours, the UK's second biggest tour operator.

In a deal described as "friendly", Carnival will subscribe to an issue of 20 million new shares at £5 — 50p more than Airtours' closing price yesterday after shares jumped 20p on the news.

David Crossland, Airtours' chairman, will sell at least five million of his shares, reducing his personal stake in the company 5 per cent to 19.4 per cent, and netting him about £22.5 million. Carnival will buy another 20 million shares at £4.50. Airtours denied it was the prelude to a full takeover. Mr Crossland joins the Carnival board: Micky Arison and Howard Frank, chairman and vice-chairman of Carnival, join Airtours.

Shares in First Choice, the UK's second largest tour operator, rose 7p to 69p yesterday. Francis Baron, chief executive, said: "We believe the cautious approach of the major tour operators will ensure that more satisfactory margins can be generated for summer 1996." Tempus, page 24

MPs to quiz Bank officials

SIR Tom Arnold, chairman of the Commons Treasury Select Committee, said yesterday that Bank of England officials will be called before MPs to give further evidence into its role in the collapse of Barings some time after the Easter recess (Robert Miller writes).

The Bank will face further tough questioning, but only after the committee has quizzed former senior Barings executives. These include Peter Baring, the chairman, Andrew Tuckey, his deputy, Peter Norris, chief executive officer, and James Bax, who was in charge of the Barings Singapore office where unauthorised trading by Nick Leeson caused the merchant bank to collapse with debts of £860 million.

Sir Tom has also asked the Singapore inspectors who compiled their own report into the Barings crash to submit written evidence.

Greenspan post renewed

President Clinton is to nominate Alan Greenspan for another term as chairman of the Federal Reserve, White House sources said. However, no final decision has yet been taken on who will fill the remaining two seats on the board.

Alice Rivlin, federal budget director, is believed to be under consideration to become vice-chairman, replacing Alan Blinder, who has returned to a teaching post. Lawrence Meyer, an economist and professor at Washington University in St Louis, is thought to be the leading contender to fill the other post.

Ideal decision

Trafalgar House received shareholder approval at its annual meeting to sell its Ideal Homes subsidiary to Persimmon for £180 million. It denied that it plans to sell Cunard, the shipping line. Simon Keswick, chairman, said: "There are no further disposals in the pipeline."

Shareholders also approved a long-term incentive plan that will allow senior management to receive bonuses of up to 30 per cent of their salary, depending on performance targets being met.

Cookson plan

Cookson Group, the specialist industrial materials group, is investing £8 million in Cookson Matthey Ceramics, its 50-50 ceramics joint venture with Johnson Matthey, in two new facilities in Asia. There will be a £3 million investment in a zircon opacifier plant — which makes the key ingredients used in the tile, tableware and sanitaryware industries — near Bangalore, India, and a further £4.5 million will be invested in a new plant in Malaysia.

TOUR STATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.15	1.99
Austria Sch	16.77	15.27
Belgium Fr	48.09	44.79
Canada $	2.232	2.072
Cyprus CypE	0.753	0.696
Denmark Kr	9.28	8.48
Finland Mkk	7.54	6.89
France Fr	8.13	7.46
Germany Dm	2.40	2.19
Greece Dr	391.00	386.00
Hong Kong $	12.58	11.58
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1600	4.69300
Italy Lira	2537.00	2382.00
Japan Yen	178.50	160.50
Malta	0.591	0.538
Netherlds Gld	2.663	2.433
New Zealand $	2.43	2.21
Norway Kr	10.39	9.59
Portugal Esc	244.50	226.00
S Africa Rd	nil.	5.81
Spain Pta	198.00	183.00
Sweden Kr	11.05	10.25
Switzerland Fr	1.86	1.78
Turkey Lira	99818.0	94318.0
USA $	1.541	1.511

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Bingo can fight back, says Rank

Costs push Wickes to £55m loss

Nadir secretary 'we Elm ring on flight

BRITISH GAS PLC
1995 ANNUAL RESULTS

Chairman's Statement

In spite of the sharp fall in gas prices in our industrial and commercial markets and the warm weather throughout 1995, we have held our own. Profits, before exceptionals, are broadly in line with last year. This has been achieved through the benefits of our massive restructuring programme and much better results in our Exploration and Production business. Implementing a restructuring of this magnitude has inevitably led to a deterioration in our service to customers. However, the restructuring is critical to the future competitiveness of British Gas and we are working hard to restore high levels of customer service and goodwill.

RV Giordano

Richard V Giordano, Chairman
22 February 1996.

- FINAL DIVIDEND MAINTAINED AT 8.1P MAKING A TOTAL PAYMENT OF 14.5P (1994 14.5P).
- HISTORICAL COST PROFIT ON A PRE-EXCEPTIONAL BASIS £903 MILLION COMPARED WITH £927 MILLION (1994).
- RESTRUCTURING OF THE UK GAS BUSINESS DELIVERED ANNUALISED COST SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY £350 MILLION.
- EXCEPTIONAL CHARGES OF £394 MILLION HAVE BEEN MADE IN RESPECT OF PROPERTY AND PLANT WRITE-DOWNS TOGETHER WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS LARGELY FOR THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED LANDFILL TAX.

THE RESULTS AT A GLANCE

	Year ended 31 December			
	Current cost £m		Historical cost £m	
	1995	1994	1995	1994
Turnover - continuing operations	8 601	9 029	8 601	9 029
- discontinued operations	—	669	—	669
	8 601	9 698	8 601	9 698
Operating profit before exceptional charges	977	1 182	1 391	1 563
Exceptional charges (i)	(394)	(195)	(394)	(195)
Operating profit (ii)	583	987	997	1 368
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	607	918	986	1 245
Profit for the financial period before exceptional charges	524	600	903	927
Profit for the financial period after exceptional charges	130	410	509	737
Earnings per ordinary share - basic	2.9p	9.5p	11.6p	17.0p
- adjusted (iii)	12.0p	13.9p	20.7p	21.4p
Interim dividend per ordinary share	6.4p	6.4p	6.4p	6.4p
Proposed final dividend per ordinary share	8.1p	8.1p	8.1p	8.1p
Total dividend per ordinary share	14.5p	14.5p	14.5p	14.5p

(i) Exceptional charges comprise property and plant write-downs (£194m, 1994 £nil) and environmental charges (£200m, 1994 £90m). 1994 includes a £105m restructuring charge.

(ii) Operating profit on continuing operations includes a provision of £83m (1994 £nil) against Take or Pay prepayments on long-term gas purchase contracts. 1994 operating profit includes results in respect of discontinued operations (£119m).

(iii) Adjusted earnings exclude the effect of exceptional charges.

Copies of the 1995 Fourth Quarter and Full Year Results are available from British Gas plc, Investor Relations Department, Rivermill House, 152 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3JL. Telephone 0171 611 2085.

British Gas



If something suddenly goes wrong, rolling bearings can come to the rescue —or even give a warning.

NOW, YOU CAN HAVE BEARINGS WITH BUILT-IN FEELERS. These feelers, known as sensors, measure speed of rotation, acceleration, temperature or load. They can give a warning when something becomes too hot, runs too fast or becomes overloaded. For a number of years they have been in series production by SKF for the automobile industry and have achieved widespread acceptance.

Sensors can readily be applied in practically all branches of mechanical engineering. The largest order we have so far received in this field has been from Jungheinrich of Hamburg. The sensorised bearings are being used in a new generation of fork lift trucks. This has enabled the bearings and sensorisation of an electrically controlled unit to be brought together for the first time. An important prerequisite is that the sensorised bearings must be unaffected by external magnetic fields. This has been proven through a series of tests which have led to CE-approval.

Other applications include lifts, escalators, bus and train doors, as well as electric motors.

GROUP EARNINGS

Consolidated income after financial income and expense 1995: SEK 3 334 M, compared with SEK 1 819 M in 1994. Group sales rose to SEK 36 700 m (33 273). Other operating income amounted to SEK 106 M (151).

After depreciation totaling SEK 1 360 M (1 416), operating income amounted to SEK 3 945 M (2 533). Net financial expense was SEK -611M (-714).

Earnings per share amounted to SEK 17.95 (11.05). The return on capital employed was 19.0 percent (13.1) and on shareholders' equity 19.4 percent (13.3). Group solvency improved during 1995 from 29.1 percent to 31.6 percent at year-end.

INCREASED INVESTMENT

Capital expenditures in property, plant and equipment increased to SEK 2 296 M (1 356). This sharp increase is the result of a decision to accelerate the technological upgrading of the Group's plants to achieve greater flexibility, improve productivity and reduce costs.

The Group's investments in research and development increased to SEK 598 M (542), representing nearly two percent of annual sales.

The Annual Report 1995 can be ordered from SKF Group Public Affairs, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden. Tel: +46 31 37 10 00, Fax +46 31 37 17 22.

AVERAGE RATE OF EXCHANGE:
1995: 1 GBP = 11.27 SEK. 1994: 1 GBP = 11.80 SEK.

SKF

هكذا من الأصل

☐ British Gas chairman has brought shareholders only trouble ☐ Mutuals try to make friends ☐ Future of the Stock Exchange

Too much gas from Giordano

☐THE sagging financial fortunes of British Gas and the perils facing it have again been overshadowed by a spat over boardroom pay. Again, the accusations made by the Labour Party are spurious. Yet again, the arrangements made by the chairman of British Gas, this time for his own pay, are obscure enough for smoke theorists to look for fire.

The blame rests largely on the broad shoulders of Richard Giordano himself. For the baying hordes and for British Gas shareholders alike, his handsome visage — not craggy Cedric Brown, the man offered up as scapegoat — is now the unacceptable face of British capitalism.

British Gas has suffered a co-ordinated and undeserved attack on its business by government. This assault caused most of its difficulties. Instead of appealing to shareholders, customers and public opinion, however, British Gas under Mr Giordano has made itself friendless. When competition arrives, many customers will desert, however illogically, at the first opportunity.

Mr Giordano claims that Gas's corporate restructuring "has inevitably led to deterioration of our service to customers". There was no inevitability about it. He pushed through cost-saving moves that axed too many key people too soon and will cost the company more than their wages. You do not become competitive by alienating customers.

That is also the main significance of the pay issue. Mr Giordano led the committee that fixed Cedric Brown's pay at £475,000, neatly accommodating the £450,000 he is paid for a 3½ day week as part-time chairman. It was vital to this process that Mr Giordano should be non-executive. British Gas stated in its accounts that its remuneration committee was composed of non-executives. The chairman finally left it last year. When Mr Brown retires early, Mr Giordano will effectively become chief executive ahead of the hastily plotted 1997 split.

Was Mr Giordano ever really non-executive? As British Gas rightly explains, the sterling/dollar split in his pay was properly disclosed in its 1993 accounts. One contract was with British Gas as chairman, the other with BG Holdings Inc "as president of that company" for a minimum of three years. Mr Giordano, who spends a third of his time in America, told the Employment Select Committee that this reflected services he performed for British Gas abroad. Such arrangements seem odd for a non-executive chairman. The employee role of president of an overseas subsidiary looks incompatible. Yet Price Waterhouse, praised by Mr Giordano for their advice on the tax arrangements, signed the accounts in their role as auditor that insisted he must be non-executive.

Mr Giordano insists there is "nothing fishy" in his arrangements. The damage he has wreaked on British Gas shareholders is equally unambiguous.

Nationwide the mutual's friend

☐ THE benefit of mutuality was being bandied around by the Nationwide Building Society yesterday, as it cut its mortgage rate for its 1.3 million borrowers and announced better savings rates for many more. The PLCs and the soon-to-be's went into a flat spin and for some hours were unable to respond.

PENNINGTON



But then Abbey National, first to convert in 1989, became bold. Its members had received their 100 shares more than six years ago and the bank was not considering cutting its mortgage rate, and even worse reducing its margins by increasing the amount paid to savers. But the market was not so sure it could hold out and its share price fell.

We won't move either, echoed Halifax, which converts next year and patently does not want to reduce its stock market value between times. National & Provincial kept quiet ahead of its absorption into Abbey National — it no longer has a voice.

A year is a long time in the world of building societies. In early 1995, N&P was selling its own package of benefits of mutuality and trying to persuade the City that it was not a candidate for takeover. It was not long before N&P started merger talks with Nationwide and then the Abbey moved in. If Nationwide's talks had been successful it, too, would be joining the long queue of mutuals plumping up for market.

Now the Nationwide, with no serious suitors either, has decided to cut its annual profits and its dowry in half. Members, as building society customers prefer to be called, have not been able to understand, for a century or more, the desire to build up reserves. There was a little bit more logic when bonuses started being handed out on conversion or takeover — at least for the lucky beneficiaries — but too many were disappointed by missing out.

With the Nationwide no one is excluded, probably not even the customers of the converted and the soon-to-be's. With snow on the ground and precious few housebuyers on the high street, whatever they might say today or even tomorrow is likely to change a tad once Easter is upon us, should Nationwide be seen to winning a larger share of the mortgage market. Not that we can expect widespread largesse extending to savers but the two biggest mortgage lenders cannot afford to sit on their wide margins and let Nationwide win their customers and all the attached selling opportunities.

The return of Lawrence

☐ THE January assassination of Michael Lawrence, the Stock Exchange's former chief executive, always augured ill for the Tower's image. On Monday, John Kemp-Welch, chairman of the Stock Exchange, was given a hard time by the House of Commons Treasury committee which is clearly concerned about the way in which SE chief executives have a habit of being whirled out of their swing chairs. Diane Abbott, a Labour MP, suggested that the Stock Exchange was run more "like a club than a business". Quentin Davies, a Conservative MP, took the view that the organisation was undergoing "something of an identity crisis". Mr Kemp-Welch, who politely rejected such allegations, was left to make the most of his revelation that the Stock Exchange has decided to conduct an inquiry into the way it runs itself. Ian Plenderleith and Ian Salter, the Stock Exchange's deputy chairmen, will sound out members on issues such as consultancy procedures and report within three months.

Yawn-making stuff but the committee, which is focusing on the Stock Exchange's future, can expect a little more excitement on Wednesday when Mr Lawrence makes his appearance. Leaks of his written submission to the committee merely confirm the widely held belief that the City's major market-making firms, opposed to the manner in which Mr Lawrence wanted to introduce an element of order matching transactions (where shares are transferred from buyer to seller without going through a market-maker), were the prime movers behind his unceremonious dismissal.

It will be interesting to see whether the committee, led by Sir Tom Arnold, manages to ascertain the identity of the Godfather behind this particular conspiracy — an open secret in the vicinity of Throgmorton Street.

Bingo can fight back, says Rank

By Alasdair Murray

RANK ORGANISATION, the leisure company, yesterday unveiled a 6 per cent rise in 1995 profits, to £407 million, in spite of competition from the National Lottery.

Profits in the recreation division fell by £19 million, to £50 million, after a 10 per cent drop in bingo attendance. The company said that, as a result, it had shut or sold 28 smaller bingo clubs in 1995 and that it expects to dispose of a further 13 this year.

However, Rank was optimistic that bingo could fight back against the lottery, pointing to a drop from 60 to 20 per cent in bingo players regularly playing lottery scratchcards. The company said it will concentrate on opening larger bingo clubs to win back punters. It aims to open 16 big clubs, with average seating of 2,000, in 1996. The company is hopeful that a government consultative paper on deregulation in the gambling industry, due out in the next few weeks, will recommend that bingo clubs be allowed to advertise.

Overall group turnover rose by 5 per cent, to £2.31 billion. The film and television division posted profits of £82 million, up 11 per cent, boosted by a bumper number of Hollywood releases. There was also a record contribution from the Pinewood film studios, which produced 22 films during the year. Rank said that it will launch a major expansion of Odeon multiplex cinemas over the next few years.

The holiday division, which includes Butlins, benefited in the UK from good summer weather. The number of holidays sold rose by 5 per cent and profits were up by 9 per cent, to £63 million. European summer holiday bookings for 1996 are down, but UK bookings are up by about 2 per cent.

Leisure businesses, which include nightclubs and the Hard Rock Cafe restaurant chain, raised profits by a quarter, to £69 million.

Profits of Rank Xerox, the photocopier company, increased, but Rank's share declined to £187 million after the reduction in its stake last year from 33 to 20 per cent.

The dividend rises by 19 per cent, to 15.75p, due on April 19.

Tempus, page 24

Costs push Wickes to £258m loss

THE cost of withdrawing from its loss-making timber merchant businesses forced Wickes, the do-it-yourself chain, to a loss of £258 million (£30.1 million profit) in the year to December 31 (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The slump resulted from the write-back of £186 million of goodwill, together with £86 million of costs associated with the sale of Hunter Timber and Builders Mate.

Henry Sweetbaum, chairman, said 1995 was a year of "unparalleled change" that had transformed it into a purely retail business with 153 stores in five countries.

Wickes outperformed the market and its rivals with a like-for-like sales advance of 11 per cent. UK operating profits rose 9 per cent to £30.8 million. The final dividend of 1.5p, due July 4, makes a total for the year of 2.1p (1.8p).

Inquiry into share trading 'under way'

THE German securities supervisory board is understood to be investigating alleged insider trading in shares of Bremer Vulkan, the German shipbuilder that has filed for protection from its creditors after revealing a DM1 billion loss (Philip Pangalos writes).

Bremer Vulkan has 23,000 employees at yards in Bremen and in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in eastern Germany whose jobs are at risk.

It filed for protection after attempts to put together a rescue package failed. The European Commission has started investigations into the alleged misuse of state-backed funds totalling DM600 million earmarked for two shipyards in eastern Germany.

Bremer Vulcan's Frankfurt-listed shares nearly halved in value when they resumed trading on Wednesday.

Nadir secretary 'wore £1m ring on flight'

By Jon Ashworth

A SECRETARY working for Asil Nadir's private financial interests flew from Switzerland to London wearing a ring worth £1 million, a court was told yesterday.

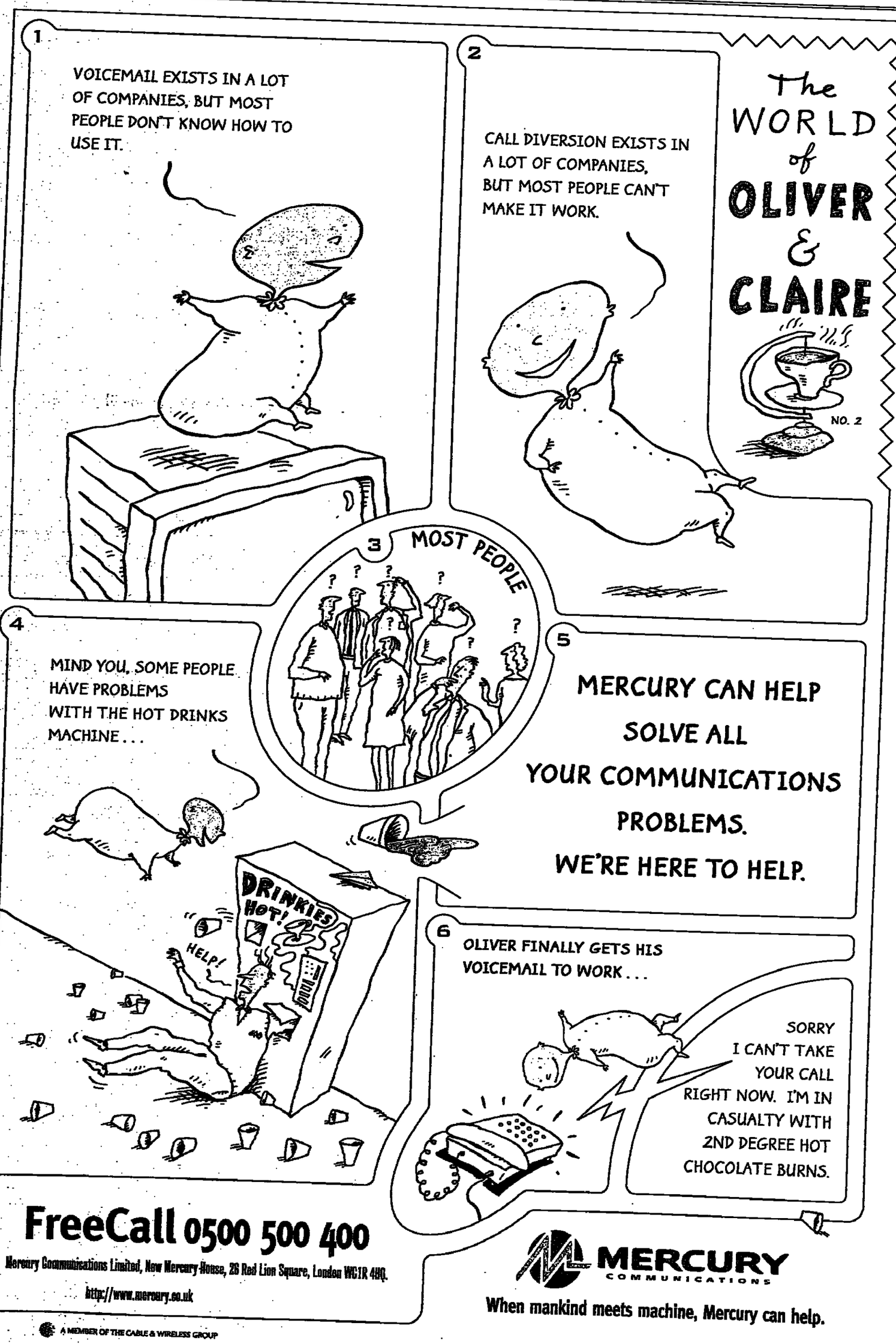
Sharon Marsh, who worked at South Audley Management (SAM), was sent to collect the ring from a bank vault in Zurich, where Mr Nadir had lodged it for safekeeping. Mr Nadir's chauffeur met her at the airport, and she later handed over the ring.

Miss Marsh worked as personal assistant to Elizabeth Forsyth, chairman of SAM, who is on trial at the Central Criminal Court on charges of handling £307,000 and £88,050 in funds during a week in October 1989. She denies the charges.

The money was allegedly stolen by Mr Nadir from Polly Peck International.

Paul Moretta, Mr Nadir's former chauffeur and bodyguard, told the court that he had paid £88,050 in cash into a bank account in Mayfair. The money was in a briefcase handed to him by Mrs Forsyth in her office in Berkeley Square.

The trial continues today.



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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Imperial sale reports revive Hanson shares

HANSON clawed back some of its recent losses amid mounting speculation that it is close to agreeing terms over the sale of its Imperial Tobacco division.

Lord Hanson's plans to split the group into four received a lukewarm reception from the City. Under the demerger plan, the chemical, energy, tobacco and building materials divisions would be split into four separate companies with their own management.

Talk in the City last night suggested that BAT Industries has made an offer for Imperial Tobacco which, according to analysts, could fetch as much as £2.5 billion. Brokers say a straightforward disposal with no fuss would pump cash back into the business and be less drawn-out than a separate flotation. It would also suit BAT, which has most of its tobacco operation in the US, with only minimal exposure in this country. Brokers say the deal would also help to solve some of BAT's tax problems.

The speculation arose following heavy turnover of Hanson's American Depository Receipts overnight on Wall Street. The equivalent of 35 million shares changed hands, in addition to the 25 million traded in London yesterday. **Hanson** put on 8¼p, to end at 190¼p.

Elsewhere, it was another difficult day for both traders and investors. Shares in London experienced another hesitant start despite the strong performance by the Dow Jones average overnight in the US. Prices traded in a narrow band for much of the day, with interest focused on a mixture of trading statements and bid speculation. The benefits of another positive start to trading in New York made only minimal impact in London, where the FT-SE 100 index closed 14.4 points higher at 3,740.0.

The move by the Nationwide building society to cut its mortgage rate for its million borrowers sparked fears of a price war which left the other lenders nursing losses on the day. **Abbey National** fell 6p to 586p. **Bank of Scotland** 7p to 277p, **Barclays** 7p to 792p, and **Lloyds TSB** 4p to 323p. **Royal Bank of Scotland** also eased 3p to 581p on talk of a profits downgrading by SBC Warburg, the broker.

MAI, the Anglia and Meridian Television group, spent a volatile session, ending 17p down on the day at 419p. It briefly touched 470p after a denial by Michael Green's Carlton Communications that it intends to make a bid. Carlton was pressured into making a statement by the Takeover Panel to put an end to recent intense speculation within the Square Mile. Earlier this month, MAI unveiled details of a proposed £2.9 billion merger with United News & Media, publisher of the *Daily Express*.

Speculators immediately switched to **Mirror Group**, where the prices responded with a rise of 3p to 224p. The market is convinced that Carlton wishes to expand its media interests. Reports claim that it has secured a £2 billion bank facility and is on the lookout for a new financial adviser.

Scottish Television was down 13p at 696p and **HTV Group** 7p off at 386p. **Carlton** tumbled 22p at one stage, before rallying after the announcement to finish 7p better at £10.13.

BET was 1p firmer at 196½p following an apparent change of tack by Rentokil, which has offered £1.8 billion. Clive Thompson, the Rentokil chief executive, has indicated that he would be willing to sit round the table and discuss the acquisition of a large part of BET's business instead. **Rentokil** rallied 6½p to 344½p.

More O'Ferrall, the billboards advertising group, jumped 1p to 525p. Panmure Gordon, the broker, is expected to publish a buy recommendation later today.

A drop in full year profits and further controversy over its directors' pay left **British Gas** nursing a fall of 3½p at 236½p.

Richard Giordano, chairman, only added to the gloom by warning that he expects the group to be referred to the Monopolies & Mergers Commission once Ofgas, the industry regulator, publishes its Transco review in the spring.

Full-year figures from **ICI** came in at the bottom end of expectations, but the group was able to reassure brokers about prospects. Pre-tax profits for the full year grew from 1994's depressed £408 million to £927 million. The shares finished 25p dearer at 857p after touching 823p.

Full-year figures from **Rank Organisation** came in at the top end of expectations despite another savaging of its bingo operations by the National Lottery. The shares closed 15p up at 479p.

A disappointing second-half performance took its toll on full-year figures from **Courtaulds Textiles**, where Noel Jarvis is chief executive. But the £7 million slide in pre-tax profits to £40 million was no worse than the market had envisaged and the shares finished 8p better at 408p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Late falls were recorded, with dealers worried that this morning's Industrial Trends Survey will show a sharp rise in output. Despite the news of Nationwide's cut in its mortgage rate, prices closed near their low of the day.

Brokers reported switching out of gilts and into German bunds. The only sector to resist the downward pull was index-linked, where prices at the longer end climbed £⅜.

In the futures pit, the March series of the Long Gilt fell £$^{13}/_{32}$ to £$107^{9}/_{16}$ as the number of contracts completed totalled 77,000.

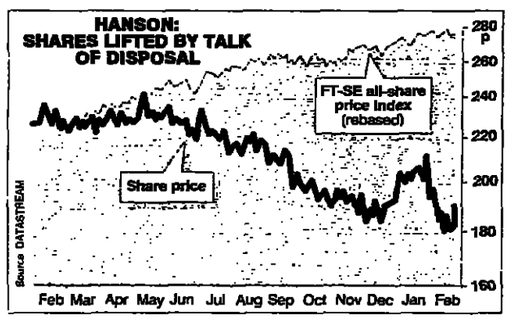
In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell £$^{7}/_{16}$ to £99, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 eased three ticks to £$103^{15}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street saw further gains on the prospect of lower interest rates. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 31.79 points higher at 5,547.76.



Noel Jarvis of Courtalds Textiles, 8p higher

Lopex firmed another ½p to 19½p having risen from 13p during the past two weeks. A line of two million shares that had been overhanging has now been placed. Results next month are expected to show pre-tax profits about £2 million, compared with £520,000 last time after a £2 million goodwill write-off.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5547.76 (+31.79)
S&P Composite 652.35 (+4.25)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20340.94 (-31.29)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11338.45 (-256.54)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 507.50 (+3.56)

Sydney:
AO 2254.1 (+15.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2412.00 (+20.88)

Singapore:
Straits 2454.81 (+0.93)

Brussels:
General 8562.98 (+92.43)

Paris:
CAC-40 1953.26 (+16.36)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 725.00 (+0.80)

London:

FT 30	2761.5 (+20.5)
FT 100	3740.0 (+14.4)
FT-SE Mid 250	4197.7 (+15.7)
FT-SE-A 350	1867.4 (+7.2)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1536.56 (+14.97)
FT A All-Share	1842.98 (+6.83)
FT Non Financials	1945.48 (+9.44)
FT Fixed Interest	112.35 (+0.08)
FT Govt Secs	93.65 (+0.02)
Bargains	31408
SEAQ Volume	739.4m
USM (Datastrm)	204.59 (+1.14)
US$	1.5433 (-0.0015)
German Mark	2.2404 (-0.0014)
Exchange Index	83.6 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
ECU	1.1872
SDR	1.0491
RPI	150.2 Jan (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.3 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brmd) A	284	...
Ballynatray	5½	...
Clubhaus (75)	7¼	...
Clubhaus Wts	3½	...
Dmatek	70	...
Ex-Lands Props	13½	...
Ex-Lands Wts	8½	...
MediaKey (60)	63	...
Nthrn Purim Wts	8	...
Optical Care (B)	68	...
Ormonde Mining	12	...
Revelation Picc	105	...
Self Sealing Sys (54)	51	...
Shire Pharms (175)	206	– 3
SkyePharma B Wts	8¼	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ashtead n/p (152)	15½	– ½
Br Borneo n/p (310)	126	+ 7
Farnl Fn Ut n/p (540)	71	– 1
Innovative T n/p (70)	26	...
Lookers n/p (125)	½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Brandon Hire	103p (+12p)
Cortecs	265p (+18p)
ADT	985p (+60p)
Regent	884p (+44p)
Airtours	450p (+20p)
St Helena	494p (+20½p)
Tottenham Hotspur	308p (+12p)
Rank Org	479½p (+15½p)
Ascot Holdings	335p (+10p)
ICI	857p (+25p)
S&U	354p (+10p)
Tibbet & Britten	460p (+12p)
Psion	903p (+23p)
London & Man	402p (+10p)
Macro 4	420p (+10p)
Refuge	450p (+10p)
Granada	726p (+21p)
Bank of Ireland	455p (+13p)

FALLS:

Widney	80p (-13p)
Stoves	255p (-25p)
MAI	419p (-17p)
Kwik Save	475p (-13p)
Fine Art Dev	421p (-11p)
Scot TV	696p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

ICI's asset formula

WITH scores of management consultants prowling around ICI's Millbank headquarters, it is scarcely surprising that the bosses are now seducing shareholders with talk of the "value gap initiative". Jargon aside, the main question facing ICI investors is not the cost-cutting programme, but whether the company can find acquisitions or capital projects that deliver returns above its hurdle rate of 20 per cent.

Price recovery gave ICI a good year, but yesterday's figures also gave credence to the company's claim that streamlining the product lines has left it less exposed to the chemicals cycle. Even after the slowdown and destocking in the fourth quarter, the company managed gains in volume, price and profits.

ICI is confident that the current cycle has yet to peak, but the company knows it cannot rely on prices to deliver its target rate of return. Yesterday, the company acknowledged that it was making inefficient use of its assets and posed itself the challenge of gearing the balance sheet more aggressively. But if ICI is to achieve a long-running 20 per cent return from its assets, it should be earning some 25-30 per cent at peak performance, a rate far removed from last year's 18 per cent.

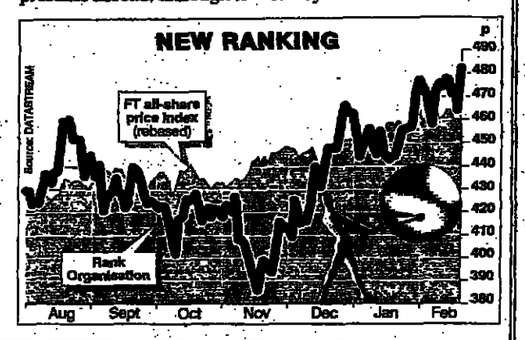
If it was easy to find businesses or projects capable of delivering such growth, ICI would not now be blushing about its inefficient use of capital. Gearing up today means investing as the cycle peaks, a strategy that leaves it exposed to inflated prices. The alternative is the return of capital to shareholders. If ICI can solve its ACT problem, shareholders might prefer the safer route.

Rank

DEMERGER is the fashion and it was inevitable that questions would be asked about Rank Organisation. The lumbering giant owns assets that are loosely labelled leisure businesses, but it is hard to see the link between the glamorous film and television interests and the more prosaic bingo clubs and Butlins.

It is hoped that Andrew Teare, the incoming chief executive, will put some zip back into the competent, if somewhat sluggish, company. But demerger is unlikely to be the immediate way forward. Rank is hampered by its remaining 20 per cent stake in Rank Xerox: a sale would result in a hefty forward tax bill and even a retrospective bill for last year's partial sale. Another concern is Rank's over-reliance on Xerox profits, a company over which it has limited control. Xerox already supplies 45 per cent of the group's earnings; placing it with one division would result in the other businesses being dwarfed.

There are still plenty of options open to Mr Teare. Rank has only a limited presence abroad, although it is trying to persuade Spaniards to play bingo. Further rationalisation makes Casinos an obvious disposal candidate. If Rank then ends up flush with cash, a share buyback or special dividend are certain to be explored. On a forward price earnings rating of about 14, Rank is offering better odds than the lottery.



British Gas

BRITISH GAS is flailing about looking for a weapon with which to strike its enemies and has found the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Poor old BG, first cold-shouldered by the oil companies who were unimpressed by its cries over take-or-pay contracts. Then the Government, too, gave it a snub by refusing to contemplate a consumer levy. With an election looming, ministers are not keen to be seen supporting an unpopular management. And finally, Ofgas, the tormentor, wants to give more of BG's precious cash to the consumer.

BG's answer is to refer everything to the MMC. Referral of the future pricing formula for Transco looked inevitable but BG now wants to dump the take-or-pay problem in the lap of the competition authorities.

The MMC, a body whose job is to support fair competition, will be faced with a confusing task, should it be foolish enough to take it on. Even BG agrees the take-or-pay contracts were freely entered into and the only monopoly in town at the time was the British Gas, not the oil companies.

BG's tactics look dilatory and lengthy MMC inquiries will do nothing to help shareholders take a view on Transco's dividend prospects. These look increasingly weak: without the cash from Morecambe Bay, Transco will have a hard job satisfying shareholders and developing its business. The likely outcome is less dividend or cut-backs in exploration and probably both.

Airtours

IF CARNIVAL Corporation is just interested in selling more cruise holidays in the UK it could have saved itself £100 million. Airtours needs a boost to its business and a marketing link between the two operators could doubtless be achieved without the cement of a shareholding.

Airtours has been scouring North America for companies to fill the loss-making winter season with profitable business. Filling seats on its winter flights to Miami with passengers destined for Carnival cruise ships could transform a slim £20 profit per passenger into £100.

The share subscription will repair Airtour's balance sheet, eroded by goodwill write-offs from acquisitions and fill its coffers with cash for more deals. However, it is difficult to see where Carnival gains from this deal. Current bookings for Airtour's summer season suggest another grim year with rampant discounting in store. If Carnival is to avoid seeing its cash financing unprofitable holidays in Malaga, it will need to take a firm hand. That suggests the one-year standstill on share purchases

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	884-908	May	1011-1010
May	921-920	Jul	unq
Jul	944-943	Sep	...
Sep	965-964	Dec	...
Dec	981-980		
Mar	[illegible]	Volume: 5329	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2045-2040	Nov	1954-1947
May	1991-1986	Jan	1934-1925
Jul	1949-1909	Mar	1929-1940
Sep	1874-1872	Volume: 4253	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	311.5-310.7
Spot: 307.5		Mar	307.5-306.5
Mar	303.0-302.5	May	304.0-303.5
Aug	308.5-308.0	Aug	unq
Oct	323.0-322.0	Volume: 1452	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average latstock prices at representative markets on February 21

(p/kg lw)	Pigs	Sheep	Cattle
GB	109.53	129.73	120.02
[illegible]	-3.58	-0.44	+0.96
England & Wales	109.53	130.33	119.25
[illegible]	-3.06	-0.05	+0.79
[illegible]	-1.40	-0.0	-1.11
Scotland	unq	126.64	124.90
[illegible]	[illegible]	-0.06	+1.72
[illegible]	[illegible]	-0.0	-2.01

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.30 +0.35
Brent 15 days (Apr)	18.15 +0.30
Brent 15 day (May)	17.50 +0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	19.95 +0.35
W Texas Intermediate (May)	18.95 +0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas	185	177-179	O. 179-183
Gasoil EEC		196-198	198 (+2)
Non EEC 1% Mar		186-188	188 (+3)
Non EEC 1% Apr		180-182	183 (+4)
3.5 Fuel Oil		96-98	98 (+4)
Naphtha		174 (nfy)	175 (nfy)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	176.75-77.25	Jun	154.00-54.25
Apr	n/a	Jul	153.00-53.25
Mar	156.00-56.25	Vol: 19932	

BRENT ($.00pm)

Apr	18.14-18.15	Jul	18.02 SLR
May	17.98-17.99	Aug	17.91-17.97
Jun	17.07-17.11	Vol: 27416	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	118.50	Mar	108.70
May	121.10	May	110.65
Jul	123.00	Sep	109.80
Sep	110.40	Nov	107.50
Nov	112.45	Jan	113.00
Volume: 407		Volume: 39	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	174.0	173.8
May	193.0	189.5
Volume: 54		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Mar 110.00-110.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 96	1400	1394	1394
Mar 96	1432	1405	1425
Apr 96	1475	1415	1475
Jul 96	1505	1300	1505
Vol: 302 lots		Open Interest: 4701	
		Index 1409 -13	

(Official) (Volume prev day) LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rodolf Wolff

Copper Gde A (Tonne) — Cash: 2519.0-2520.0 — 3mths: 2481.5-2482.5 — Vol: 16644/25
Lead (Tonne) — 795.00-796.00 — 784.00-785.00 — 16/150
Zinc spec Hi Gde (Tonne) — 1040.0-1041.0 — 1056.5-1057.0 — 39/425
Tin (Tonne) — n205.0-n210.0 — n270.0-n275.0 — 20/540
Aluminium Hi Gde (Tonne) — 1598.0-1599.5 — 1628.0-1628.5 — n50/10
Nickel (Tonne) — n2700-n2710 — n3820-n3840 — 40/302

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Calls Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Sild Defm	540	39	45	54	3	14	17
FTSE	550	12	20	30	27	49	47
Argyll	550	15	15	26	7	16	19
Land Sec	600	25	33	36	16	19	23
Shell	650	4	9	15	27	52	55
M & S	420	16	23	29	6	17	20
Allied	460	21	7	13	36	43	45
Nat West	580	49	58	71	10	18	27
Reed	700	17	35	45	23	41	50
Sainsbury	390	30	34	39	2	6	11
Shell	390	10	16	20	13	22	27
Shell	800	55	57	65	7	13	20
Reed	850	18	26	36	30	36	43
Smith Bch	700	30	43	53	16	22	34
Tesco	350	5	21	30	38	55	62
Storehse	300	16	24	29	6	13	16
Tesco	330	4	11	16	25	29	32
Trafalgar	35	5	8	9	2	4	6
Tesco	40	3	6	7	5	7	9
Unilever	1200	36	60	67	27	46	48
Vodafone	1250	145	28	42	62	68	70
Zeneca	1250	43	77	90	36	55	65
Zeneca	1300	23	53	73	67	83	93

	Calls Series	Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Grand Met	420	24	43	51	7	16	20
Tesco	360	13	22	31	23	36	39
Ladbroke	190	17	22	26	13	17	20
Utd Biscs	280	9	14	17	25	29	31
Utd Biscs	220	20	25	29	6	9	11
Zeneca	240	9	15	19	17	20	22

February 22: Index Toc: 39042 Call: 22171 Put: 19671 FT-SE Call: 30124 Put: 34459

*Underlying security price.

	Calls Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	460	39	47	54	2	9	11
Boots	500	42	50	54	3	12	18
Thames W	500	42	50	54	3	12	18
Severn W	550	10	20	26	20	33	37
BAA	460	39	47	54	2	9	11
Boots	500	12	22	30	16	24	28
Thames W	500	42	50	54	3	12	18
Severn W	550	10	20	26	20	33	37

	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	39	47	53	14	27	30
BTR	300	24	37	44	2	9	12
Cadbury	550	14	27	37	15	27	31
Glaxo	1100	90	115	130	10	30	40
Grand Met	420	34	43	51	7	16	20
Guinness	500	42	50	56	3	12	16
Hillsdown	190	19	23	25	1	4	6
Ladbroke	190	17	22	26	13	17	20
Lonrho	140	15	20	23	5	9	12
Next	200	9	19	25	16	19	23
Pilkington	210	12	17	–	8	13	–
Reuters	720	29	51	71	10	18	27
Prudential	920	39	62	85	11	19	24
Rank	460	10	22	28	33	36	45
Redland	340	37	41	49	11	15	20
Reuters	720	17	29	37	55	61	74
Rolls-Royce	200	10	22	28	9	10	12
Sainsbury	390	22	26	29	6	9	12
Scottish Pwr	260	10	15	19	16	19	21
Vodafone	220	20	26	31	7	12	14
Williams	240	10	16	20	16	22	25
Williams	330	15	19	27	17	19	17
Zeneca	1300	73	93	113	67	83	93

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abbey Nat	550	39	44	55	6	19	26
Abbey Nat	600	7	20	31	54	67	72
Amersham	200	14	27	34	3	10	12
Argyll	550	12	22	30	16	24	28
Barclays	750	44	54	63	6	15	20
BAT	900	8	27	41	91	93	93
Blue Circle	330	22	28	35	2	13	17
BOC	960	5	12	21	15	29	32
BP	520	18	25	26	1	7	10
Br Aero	1100	5	11	14	7	19	21
Br Gas	220	18	22	25	1	7	10
Br Steel	240	5	11	14	20	25	27
Bunzl	260	5	11	14	1	5	7
Burton	140	4	7	9	1	5	7
Cable Wire	700	45	60	70	3	15	20
Courtaulds	420	30	45	55	2	12	17
Enterprise	1000	5	27	38	95	97	97
Forte	360	9	20	26	3	13	16
GEC	360	25	32	36	2	9	13
Glaxo	1100	90	115	130	10	30	40
Grand Met	460	9	24	33	19	27	35
Guinness	500	42	50	56	3	12	16
Hanson	190	19	23	25	1	4	6
ICI	850	31	50	60	17	42	47
Kingfisher	600	7	20	31	54	67	72
Ladbroke	190	17	22	26	13	17	20
Land Sec	600	25	33	36	16	19	23
Lasmo	140	15	20	23	5	9	12
Marks Spr	390	30	34	39	2	6	11
Nat Grid	280	12	18	22	9	14	17
Nat West	580	49	58	71	10	18	27
Pearson	1000	5	27	38	95	97	97
Pilkington	210	12	17	–	8	13	–
Powergen	540	39	47	54	2	9	11
Prudential	920	39	62	85	11	19	24
Rank	460	10	22	28	33	36	45
Reckitt Col	700	17	35	45	23	41	50
Reed Int	700	17	35	45	23	41	50
Rentokil	340	37	41	49	11	15	20
Reuters	720	17	29	37	55	61	74
Rolls-Royce	200	10	22	28	9	10	12
Royal Insc	360	31	37	45	7	15	21
Rmbl	340	11	25	30	22	29	36

	Series	Mar	Jun	Mar	Jun
Fkons	260	5	5	0	0
Fkons	280	0	0	15	19

	Series	Feb	May	Feb	May
Eastn Gp	950	38	–	0	–
Rmbl	1010	0	–	25	–

	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Sell Pwr	360	39	42	46	1	11	17
Rmbl	300	9	21	28	17	32	37
Scot Pwr	360	18	30	34	2	9	14
Rmbl	390	9	22	28	17	32	30

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 96	3720.0	3744.0	3721.0	3739.0	11754
Previous open interest: 66662	Jun 96	3731.0	3744.0	3730.5	3743.0	1663
FT-SE 250	Mar 96				4200.0	0
Previous open interest: 3311	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 96	93.88	93.93	93.88	93.90	12991
Previous open interest: 37482	Jun 96	93.96	94.01	93.93	93.96	30735
	Sep 96	93.83	93.91	93.82	93.85	22527
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96				94.77	0
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 96	96.57	96.60	96.57	96.57	25267
Previous open interest: 105315	Jun 96	96.60	96.64	96.58	96.60	35093
Long Gilt	Mar 96	108-01	108-06	107-10	107-18	76942
Previous open interest: 128693	Jun 96	107-10	107-11	106-28	106-28	9355
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	118.77	118.97	118.74	118.97	1250
	Jun 96	117.29	117.50	117.25	117.50	3255
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 96	97.40	97.61	97.16	97.30	225916
Previous open interest: 282150	Jun 96	96.58	96.77	96.40	96.49	17895
Three month ECU	Mar 96	95.22	95.26	95.22	95.25	805
Previous open interest: 24621	Jun 96	95.32	95.36	95.32	95.33	561
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 96	98.16	98.20	98.14	98.18	4286
Previous open interest: 65162	Jun 96	97.99	98.02	97.99	98.05	4795
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96	109.01	109.42	108.98	108.76	53612
Previous open interest: 61447	Jun 96	108.50	108.90	108.30	108.34	955

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6% Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O'night high: 6⅛ Low 5 Week fixed: 6⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅞; 3 mth 6; Sell: 2 mth 6; 3 mth: 5⅝

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Overnight: open 6, close 5.					
Local Authority Depts:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6-5⅞	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5 22	n/a	5.17	5.06	5.06
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5⅛-5	5-4
Deutschemark:	3¼-3	3¼-3	3¼-3	3¼-3	4-3
French Franc	4¼-4	4¼-4	4¼-4	4¼-4	4½-3½
Swiss Franc	1¼-1	1¼-1	1¼-1	1¼-1	2-1
Yen	¼-0	¼-0	¼-0	¼-0	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $394.20-394.70 Close: $400.30-400.80 High: $401.40-401.90
Low: $394.45-394.90 AM: $399.35 PM: $399.65

Krugerrand: $399.75-401.75 (£256.75-260.75)

Platinum: $415.60 (£264.73) Silver: $5.54 (£3.515) Palladium: $142.00 (£92.10)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 23	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5046-2.5136	2.5048-2.5081	¼-¼pr	2-1½pr
Brussels	46.02-46.19	46.02-46.12	12-9pr	33-28pr
Copenhagen	8.6430-8.6660	8.6400-8.6620	1¼-1pr	3¾-3pr
Dublin	0.9702-0.9737	0.9706-0.9732	11-7pr	27-21pr
Frankfurt	2.2388-2.2490	2.2395-2.2486	¼-¼pr	1¼-1pr
Lisbon	252.54-253.61	252.54-253.17	18-45ds	87-131ds
Madrid	168.40-169.08	168.40-168.69	119-13ds	38-42ds
Milan	2419.4-2423.5	2419.5-2423.5	6-8ds	22-24ds
Montreal	2.1201-2.1252	2.1201-2.1232	0.230-0.13pr	0.37-0.24pr
New York	1.5412-1.5438	1.5434-1.5434	0.130-11pr	0.34-0.31pr
Oslo	9.7680-9.8080	9.7680-9.7830	½-1pr	2¾-1¾pr
Paris	7.7070-7.7300	7.7070-7.7200	1¼-1pr	3½-3pr
Stockholm	10.366-10.417	10.393-10.416	¼-¼ds	¼-¼ds
Tokyo	161.70-162.30	161.70-162.06	¼-¼pr	¾-¾pr
Vienna	15.742-15.790	15.747-15.774	¼-¼pr	1¼-1pr
Zurich	1.8216-1.8295	1.8216-1.8247	¼-¼pr	2-1 pr

Source: Extel

Premium - pr, Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3259-1.3267
Austria	10.21-10.22
Belgium (Com)	29.89-29.90
Canada	1.3755-1.3760
Denmark	5.6190-5.6220
France	5.0026-5.0051
Germany	1.4530-1.4535
Hong Kong	7.7320-7.7330
Ireland	1.5872-1.5892
Italy	1568.25-1568.75
Japan	105.08-105.18
Malaysia	2.5512-2.5522
Netherlands	1.6272-1.6282
Norway	6.3483-6.3558
Portugal	151.22-151.32
Singapore	1.4055-1.4060
Spain	122.38-122.43
Sweden	6.7390-6.7490
Switzerland	1.1835-1.1845

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5428-1.5454
Australia dollar	2.0455-

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

NPI post for Hogg

NUMBER cruncher Sarah Hogg, director of London Economics, has at last given into desperate pleas from pension provider NPI to join them as a non-executive director. The NPI was chuffed to announce her appointment yesterday, because, in the 1980s, they tried when she went to work for the Government, but the lady graciously declined.

Baroness Hogg has already attended her first NPI board-meeting, sitting next to fellow new non-exec John Carter, chief executive of Hepworth. Baroness Hogg, a journalist who was head of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit until last year, enthused about her new post. "It's a very interesting time to join when the pensions industry is going through such a tremendous amount of change."

I do hope she enjoys the NPI, because, when I first inquired about what non-execs are paid, I was told between £3,000 and £5,000 a year. Ten minutes later, the NPI phoned with a correction: "In fact, its £15,000 a year — coconuts, not peanuts."

Toon to City

SIR John Hall, who becomes a non-executive director of the Bank of England on March 1, may have wondered just where he was yesterday while being shown around NatWest Markets's trading floor in Bishopsgate by his old chum Derek Wanless, NatWest's group chief executive. Joe Lafferty, managing director of equities and in charge of 400 troops, arranged a special welcome for his boss and Sir John. After all, Sir John has been chairman of Newcastle United FC — the Toon — since 1992, and Wanless is a known Newcastle fan. So Joe, a dedicated Celtic supporter, encouraged equity salesmen to don football shirts in honour of the visit. The majority of traders obliged, and only a handful ignored Joe's one command: "No Rangers colours."



"I hear that they've linked up with a cruise ship operator"

Toast to cruise

SIMON KESWICK has at last found a reward for Hongkong Land's so-far disastrous stake in Trafalgar House, the cruise and engineering conglomerate. After Trafalgar House's annual meeting yesterday, a shareholder stood up to congratulate Keswick and the board on "the success so far of this year's *QE2* round-the-world cruise". The shareholder's 80-year-old father is on the cruise and showed his appreciation with a crate of champagne, duly presented to Keswick. One hopes the *QE2* now makes it back to Southampton successfully in April.

Napoleon call

TOUCHY lot, us English. At the first European Growth Company conference at Hotel George V, Paris, the 300-odd delegates yesterday found themselves split between two rooms. All the Brits, it seems, were put into Salon Napoleon, encouraging Andrew Beeson, of brokers Beeson Gregory, to quip: "I've just come down from Waterloo, but this is taking things a bit far!"

COLIN CAMPBELL

Single-market wrangles bode ill for monetary union

Dreams of a new currency leave trade neglected, says Janet Bush



While Jacques Chirac and Helmut Kohl build monetary union, the realities of global competition bear down on them

It is a continent-sized case of the chicken and the egg. Is the single European market the necessary prerequisite for monetary union? Or is an effective monetary union necessary for successful implementation of the single market?

These are exceedingly important questions, but Europe's political leaders have become so obsessed with the machismo of a single currency, and whether they will make the grade on deadline, that the original grand vision of a huge, open market for trade and people is being dangerously neglected.

As the inter-governmental conference approaches, all the rhetorical power of the European Union's politicians is being used to discuss the single currency. We must meet the 1999 deadline for monetary union versus we must delay. We must stick to the letter of the Maastricht economic convergence criteria versus we must relax the criteria to ensure that enough countries can join the single currency. And, in the ultimate piece of political brinkmanship, Helmut Kohl, Germany's Chancellor, has gone so far as to suggest that the collapse of the single currency project could mean war in Europe.

The importance of the single market, embodying the four freedoms of movement in goods, services, labour and capital, is being overlooked in the scramble for monetary union. This makes little sense to, among others, Professor Andrew Hughes Hallett, of the University of Strathclyde. The economic dividends of the single market are beyond doubt and the merits of the single currency are deeply arguable, he says. So why is the single market such a poor relation to the single currency in the current debate?

Euro-enthusiasts would argue that the single market does not need the same focus as monetary union because so much progress has been made. This is only partly so. There has been extraordinary integration of markets in goods, with the share of intra-EC trade in gross domestic product nearly tripling between 1960 and 1990, according to the London-based Centre for Economic Policy Research. However, integration of services has been much slower, although there is increasing liberalisation in financial services.

The picture on capital mobility is ambiguous. Although almost all capital controls have now been removed and financial markets fully integrated, internal foreign direct investment has remained low. This, though, is beginning to change. Witness the intra-European corporate takeovers of recent months. Mobility of labour continues to be a very difficult issue.

In purely numerical terms, the European Commission reported that, by the end of 1994, 92 per cent of measures required to implement the single market had been adopted by the 12 countries then members of the European Union. However, implementation varied significantly between them, reaching 98 per cent in Denmark but only 86 per cent in Greece. As a result, the number of directives adopted correctly by all 12 was 156 out of a total 219, or about 71 per cent.

This, it could be argued, is not at all bad going, but Eurocynics believe that the single market is running into trouble. Stalled and failing negotiations in a number of areas highlight the national defensiveness, self-interest, ego and ideological divides that run throughout Europe but are virtually banned in debate on monetary union.

Monetary union is the plaything of politicians determined to bind Germany to peaceful coexistence or to harness its economic power to the collective good of Europe. Such strategic desires brook no opposition, and we are all encouraged to wander in this fantastical secret garden unquestioningly. However, the single market is all about economics, real issues of market share, competitiveness, companies and consumers. Debate about this process lacks a convenient vagueness of vision.

Professor Hughes Hallett notes that the attitude towards monetary union, the most fundamental and irreversible change in how Europe runs itself, is one of do it and work out the details afterwards. In contrast, the single market has been researched, he says, in crushingly boring detail.

It is the detail that is coming unstuck, perhaps another reason why the single market does not figure large in the current debate. Earlier this month, the European Commission put off for at least six months a decision on legislation that would ensure that employees working across European borders can take their company pension rights with them. This is critical to ensuring the free movement of workers, one of the four pillars of the single market. There have been seven years of deadlock on liberalising Europe's energy markets. Christos Papoutsis, commissioner for energy, says that if there is no agreement by June, he will refer the question back to heads of government to decide whether they want a single market in energy.

Old and fiercely held political views inconsistent with a free European market are being applied. In the case of pensions, many European countries believe domestic savings "belong" to the nation and should stay there. On energy, France has made clear that its utilities are a public service. Any suggestion that some parts of France could buy cheaper electricity from Germany runs counter to a promise to the French people of a universal standard of service.

Far from moving towards a level playing field for Europe's airline businesses, Neil Kinnock, commissioner for transport, has allowed Spain to prop up Iberia to the tune of £440 million and hinted that the airline can have another £100 million next year. In telecommunications, Deutsche Telekom will be privatised but not split into competing parts, although the failure to break up British Telecom is now seen as the cardinal error of that privatisation.

It is clear that lingering dirigism, defensiveness about competition and national interest are being elevated above the good of Europe as a whole and risk putting European companies at a disadvantage as competitors in the rest of the world rush for globalisation.

Europe's aim of using economies of scale within the continent to compete more successfully in the world is in danger of failing as European partners jockey for position among themselves.

So, back to the chicken and the egg. There is an implication for monetary union in the single market's teething troubles. The Maastricht convergence criteria on debt, deficits and inflation are necessary, but so too are a level playing field for business, true mobility of labour and absolute enforcement against protectionism. There needs to be more time to make the nuts and bolts of the single market work and to allow countries to meet the convergence criteria to build a new Europe that brings economic benefits.

Andrew Duff, director of the Federal Trust, believes, however, that the collective discipline asserted by the Maastricht timetable for monetary union is the glue keeping the single market together. France and Germany, he said, have moved far towards accepting a more Anglo-Saxon approach to liberalising markets because of their ultimate desire to see monetary union. Without this goal, he believes, Europe would soon return to protectionism and assertion of national interests. "The pragmatic, free market free-for-all advocated by the British government is baloney," he argues.

However, is it not conceivable — even probable — that the single market would continue to be built, even if the artificial political timetable for monetary union were postponed or shelved? This, needless to say, would be the best possible outcome for John Major.

The same pressures of the global economy, which were a catalyst for the single market project in the first place, would still be there, ever more threatening. Surely European governments would see sense and get their act together, with or without monetary union? The national posturing over market sectors such as air transport, energy and financial services does not bode particularly well.

However, the advantages of allowing private-sector firms to compete untrammelled, the creation of large, world-beating cross-border businesses, particularly in strategic areas such as telecommunications, and free trade across a large geographical area are proven. Monetary union or no monetary union, however hard France clings to its dirigism or Germany to its generous post-war social contract, the realities of global competition will catch up with them both.

Dirigism and national interest are elevated above the good of Europe

Angry Japanese home in on big loan scandal

Peregrine Hodson reports on demands for radical finance ministry reforms

Police in riot gear stand guard outside the finance ministry in Tokyo. Reinforcements wait in buses near by. The MoF, the single most powerful institution in Japan, architect of the country's development from postwar poverty to economic superpower, is quaking in its collective shoes. What threat are the police expecting? A policeman there cannot say. "We've been sent here in case there's trouble, that's all I know."

For years, the MoF has been a law unto itself, a centre of unashamed elitism attracting the top graduates from the nation's most prestigious universities. The MoF bureaucrats have immense power, which they exercise by "administrative guidance" over four key areas of the economy: taxation, banking and finance, state assets, and the budget.

Now, after four years of recession, the ministry's reputation for infallibility has been destroyed and a string of financial scandals, notably the Daiwa Bank debacle in the US and tax evasion by a senior MoF official, have provoked widespread demands for radical reform of its workings. The greatest cause of public outrage is the Japanese Government's decision to use Y685 billion (£4.6 billion) of taxpayers' money to liquidate a group of seven housing loan corporations known as *jusen*.

> Rumours proliferate of crime syndicate involvement

At the height of Japan's economic bubble, the MoF sanctioned loans by banks to the corporations. These, in turn, made loans to property developers. Now property values have plunged, in some cases to less than a third of 1990 valuations. Developers have been wiped out, nearly all the *jusen* mortgage lenders' loans have soured, and selling the collateral attached to them would realise than a quarter of what the *jusen* owe.

Of the total of Y4.4 trillion in outstanding loans to the top 50 borrowers at each of the seven *jusen* companies, 95 per cent are non-performing. It is clear now that the MoF knew in 1991 that many of the loans, even then, were irrecoverable. Action then would have reduced the number and size of the bad loans. The public money to be used to liquidate the *jusen* amounts to Y10,000 yen for every taxpayer in Japan. Many believe the final cost will be double that.

Last December, amid rumours of the loan problem, foreign bankers, demanded extra interest on Japanese banks' borrowings in international markets. The MoF must solve the housing loan crisis as soon as possible, before the problem worsens and jeopardises Japan's financial system. But realising the remaining value of the mortgage lenders and banks' property collateral will depress property prices further.

Rumours proliferate that members of Japan's *yakuza* crime syndicate are heavily involved in the housing loan mess. Raisuke Miyawaki, formerly of the national police agency, says: "Getting rid of bad loans by tinkering with accounting methods could lead to financial domination by the crime syndicates — to a mafia-controlled economy." Typically, the *yakuza* prevent the sale of collateral properties by moving into buildings until they are paid off. They are also adept at taking advantage of Japan's property laws, which favour tenants' rights over those of the leaseowner or freeholder. Raisuke Miyawaki believes the nation's financial institutions are severely compromised by *yakuza* influence.

During the bubble economy, the *yakuza* co-opted banking officials, co-in property deals. Now the banks are being forced to call in loans, the *yakuza* are resisting with threats of blackmail and intimidation.

The loan crisis — a result of the MoF's complacency, or incompetence, and gangster profiteering hit a raw nerve with the public, who see no reason why they should subsidise organised crime.

The Government now seems tentatively to be facing up to the loans crisis and its implications. Officials said that a working group would consider legislation to prevent the *yakuza* from obstructing the recovery of delinquent loans. Unless urgent measures are taken Japan's financial institutions, according to Raisuke Miyawaki, will become dominated by *yakuza* interests, and that would be the final catastrophe.

Work in the public sector accounts for high earnings

From Mr Jonathan Chaytor

Sir, As a chartered accountant in a small practice in the little market town of Ormskirk, I cannot say that I have been under-rewarded during the past 30 years although, thanks to the Financial Services Act and Institute rules, the past three years have not been as good. I am not complaining. As regards the earnings at some international firms, I think they have been very well rewarded and they would not have achieved such earnings other than by work in the public sector. By that I mean quoted companies, privatisations, etc.

Some years ago, in leading accountancy journals, I questioned auditors' fees. In brief, I stated: "There was a marked difference in the approach between public companies' finance directors and those from the more prosperous private companies.

"Audit fee increases tend to slide through more easily because a public company is not spending proprietors' money but shareholders'".

If you accept the foregoing then the fees charged are excessive. Apart from the fees, limited liability must also be questioned. If they did the work properly in the first place they would have nothing to fear.

With earnings as reported I cannot believe that the present litigation outstanding (only a small amount of which will go against them) will only cause a minor ripple in their cashflow or perhaps a little dent in their capital.

Over the years they have used the Taxes Act with the precision of the finest chronometer to have partnership changes to lessen on their tax liabilities. The law of the land should not have been changed to allow them to renege on their liabilities.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN CHAYTOR,
Chaytor, Steele & Co;
9 Derby Street,
Ormskirk, Lancashire.

Gas pay trap

From Mr F Paul Taylor

Sir, British Gas suppliers may win both ways (Letters, February 14) but it is we, the consumers, who, one way or another, will eventually pay twice for this chaos — once for the gas we use, once for the gas we don't use.

Yours faithfully,
F PAUL TAYLOR,
7 Kingsway,
Frodsham, Cheshire.

Names settling for best offer

From Mr Dennis Franklin and others

Sir, I cannot see how Robert Miller can say that Lloyd's names are set to reject the settlement offer (February 13). Many have not yet seen the document. The usual critics of Lloyd's have made their predictable response in advance of publication. We names are too painfully aware of the problems at Lloyd's, but blaming the past does not solve the problems. The best settlement offer needs to succeed; the alternative is too awful to contemplate.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS FRANKLIN,
ROBERT WILSON,
MARGARET KNIGHT,
JOAN KELLNER-STEVENS,
BRYAN DUFFIELD,
LAURIE EDWARDS
Cross Lanes, Mapledurham,
Reading, Berkshire.

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23 February 1996

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Greenspan gives shares a push with rates forecast

AN OPENING surge on Wall Street in both equities and US Treasury bonds helped London to shake off its earlier blues and end the day on a positive note. The FT-SE 100 index staged a 37-point turnaround to close 11 points higher at 3,725.6 as a total of 710 million shares changed hands.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, came to the rescue of financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic with some soothing words about the US economy that raised hopes of an early cut in prime rates. He said that if further progress was made in the direction of a balanced budget, it would lead to a significant drop in long-term interest rates.

His views revived hopes in London that there is still scope for the Bank of England to make another early cut in base rates.

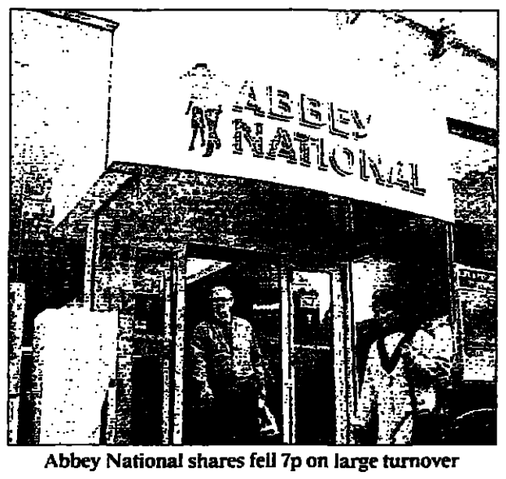
On the takeover front, **Lloyds Chemists** firmed 2p to 491p as the battle for control intensified, with GEHE raising the terms of its original offer and UniChem snapping up 8.6 per cent of the company in a dawn raid on the shares. It followed the move by GEHE, the German pharmaceutical distributor, to increase the terms of its offer by 50p to 500p a share. The new terms value Lloyds Chemists at almost £650 million.

UniChem responded by sending brokers BZW and UBS into the market-place to snap up stock at 497p a share, raising its stake in the company to almost 10 per cent.

UniChem said its acquisition of Lloyds would enhance earnings. By the close of business more than 30 million Lloyds shares had changed hands. **UniChem** finished 7p better at 249p.

The speculators were out in force at **House of Fraser** (HoF), the Army & Navy and Dickins & Jones stores group, as the price climbed 11p to 188p on turnover of two million shares. The shares hit a low of 163p last month after the group issued a profits warning. Despite the recent rally, the HoF share price has failed to live up to expectations and may prove vulnerable to a bid approach.

Brokers say **Sears**, unchanged at 95½p, would have the financial muscle to make such a move, but the Selfriges stores group has problems of its own which it may wish to sort out first.



Abbey National shares fell 7p on large turnover

A profits warning sent shares of **Wagon Industrial** tumbling 32p to 389p. The engineer said that underlying pre-tax profits for the year to March 1996 were likely to fall short of market expectations, currently pitched at about £28.3 million. It blamed lack of demand and problems with integrating acquisitions. Demand in this country was weaker than previously experienced and margin pressure in Europe remained.

Brokers gave a warm response to full-year figures from **Commercial Union** (CU), Britain's biggest insurer, with the shares responding with a jump of 16p to 614p. Pre-tax profits last year grew from £466 million to a record £509 million. The group's overseas operations accounted for 61 per cent of overall operating results.

CU's performance focused attention on the rest of the insurance sector ahead of what is now expected to be an encouraging dividend season. Top of fund managers' lists was **Royal Insurance**, up 12p at 386p ahead of figures out soon. **Guardian Royal Exchange** also firmed 1p to 246p, while among the life companies, **London & Manchester** rose 12p to 392p, **Legal & General** 8p to 726p, and **Britannic** 1p to 743p.

The banks responded positively to comments from UBS, the broker, which takes the view that interest rates are heading down to about the 5 per cent level. **National Westminster Bank**, reflecting Tuesday's profits news and this week's £460 million acquisition of Gartmore, stood out with a rise of 17p to 701p. **Royal Bank of Scotland**, the takeover favourite, added 7p to 584p, and **Standard Chartered** 4p to 603p.

VideoLogic, the multimedia specialist, firmed 1p to 78p after it was signalled that the shares had become a "chart breakout" and a buy.

MAI grew 5p to 436p after the rumoured bid from Michael Green's Carlton Communications failed to materialise. But the City is convinced that Carlton is poised to make a move soon, although its target may not necessarily be MAI. Others in the frame include **United News & Media**, publisher of the *Daily Express*, which is ready to merge itself with MAI, 1p lighter at 641p, **Mirror Group**, unchanged at 221p, and **Scottish Television**, steady at 709p. **Carlton** ended the day down 8p at £10.06.

Intercare, the healthcare group, firmed another 2p to 64p, drawing encouragement from news of this week's boardroom reshuffle. Shareholders at Tuesday's annual meeting were told that Ken Harvey had been appointed non-executive chairman and Jeremy Earnshaw group finance director.

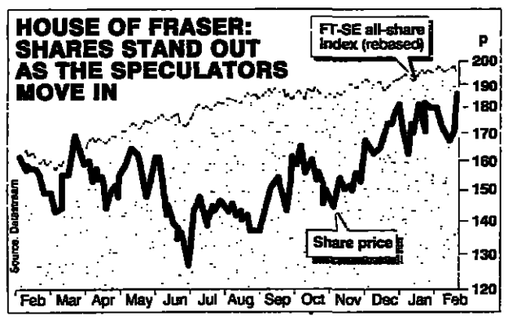
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** A weaker than expected set of January retail sales and the encouraging outlook for US interest rates saw prices in London shake off an early fall to close substantially higher on the day. The long end of the market recorded gains of more than £1.

Traders are now pinning their hopes on an early cut in US interest rates. They take the view that there is scope for a softening of rates over here.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt made up early lost ground to finish £$^{11}/_{16}$ up on the day at £$107^{31}/_{32}$ in another day of heavy turnover that saw 92,000 contracts completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 climbed £$1^{7}/_{32}$ to £$99^{17}/_{32}$, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £$^{3}/_{8}$ better at £$103^{19}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street rebounded in response to the second day of congressional testimony by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 55.63 points higher at 5,514.16.



Abbey National fell 7p to 592p as a large line of shares went through the market. SBC Warburg, the broker, placed ten million as part of a bought deal, picked up at 585½p from one institution before selling them on at 590p for a profit of £450,000.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5514.16 (+55.63)
S&P Composite 646.65 (+6.00)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20372.23 (-283.44)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng Closed

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 503.94 (+4.27)

Sydney:
AO 2238.2 (-7.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2391.12 (+8.51)

Singapore:
Straits Closed

Brussels:
General 8470.55 (+18.54)

Paris:
CAC-40 1936.90 (+4.54)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 724.20 (+1.30)

London:

FT 30	2741.0 (+20.5)
FT 100	3725.6 (+11.0)
FT-SE Mid 250	4182.0 (+4.1)
FT-SE-A 350	1860.2 (+4.7)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1521.59 (+10.65)
FT A All-Share	1836.15 (+4.03)
FT Non Financials	1936.04 (+5.85)
FT Fixed Interest	112.27 (Same)
FT Govt Secs	93.63 (+1.36)
Bargains	30449
SEAQ Volume	710.3m
USM (Datastrm)	203.18 (-0.65)
US$	1.5448 (+0.0003)
German Mark	2.3418 (-0.0039)
Exchange Index	83.7 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
ECU	1.1883
SDR	1.0494
RPI	150.2 Jan (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.3 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brmd) A	283	...	
Ballynatray	5½	–	½
Clubhaus (75)	7¼	...	
Clubhaus Wts	3½	...	
Dmatek	70	...	
Ex-Lands Props (75)	13½	...	
Ex-Lands Wts	8½	...	
MediaKey (60)	63	–	1
Nthrn Prtrn Wts	8	...	
Optical Care (8)	68	+	2
Ormonde Mining	12	...	
Revelation Picc	105	...	
Self Sealing Syss (54)	51	...	
Shire Pharms (175)	209	–	2
SkyePharma 8 Wts	8¼	–	¼

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ashtead n/p (152)	16	–	1
Br Borneo n/p (310)	119	+	2
Farni Fn Ut n/p (540)	72	–	3
Innovative T n/p (70)	26	...	
Lookers n/p (125)	½	–	½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Eva Group	143p (+10p)
Flare	161p (+11p)
House of Fraser	188p (+11p)
Arjo Wiggins	207p (+10p)
Royal	386p (+12p)
London & Man	392p (+12p)
Unitech	537p (+16p)
Regent Inns	840p (+23p)
Commercial Union	614p (+16p)
Courtaulds	429p (+11p)
BAT	573p (+13p)
P&O	535p (+10½p)
Nat West	701p (+17p)

FALLS:

Wagon Ind	389p (-32p)
Stoves	280p (-20p)
Forward Group	705p (-15p)
My Kinda Town	125p (-9p)
Frost Group	133p (-9p)
Medeva	226p (-11p)
Aus New Zealand	299p (-11p)
Volex	383p (-12p)
Allied Irish	344p (-10p)
Powell Duffryn	434p (-12p)
Nat Aust Bank	591p (-16p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Chemists mix love potions

IN THE February of a leap year, Lloyds Chemists' shareholders have the pleasant dilemma of choosing between two rival suitors.

On the face of it there is not much to distinguish between the two. Gehe, the ambitious and wealthy German, has made an increased — but not final — offer of £650 million, marginally ahead of a rival offer from UniChem. Ironically, it was yesterday's increased offer from Gehe which helped lift the value of UniChem's bid, raising the price of its shares. Gehe's allure is that its offer is all cash, compared to Unichem's cash and share mix. Shareholders dithering over accepting Gehe's cash need to decide whether an enlarged UniChem will offer better growth.

Both bidders agree there would be considerable cost savings in a marriage of UniChem and Lloyds Chemists, but Gehe has cast doubt on UniChem's claim that most of the gains — reckoned to be £25 million — would come in the first year. The German company reckons that full integration will take several years, a prospect that would dampen investor enthusiasm for the deal. Fear of dilution has depressed the UniChem share price and, notwithstanding the commercial and strategic logic of the deal, there is a question mark over the stock's future performance.

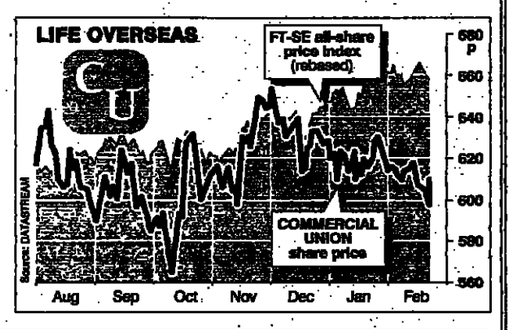
There is a worry that UniChem will lose a commercial advantage to Gehe if the latter wins Lloyds, but the German has been slow to achieve much progress with its last UK acquisition. In the circumstances, the Gehe cash looks more appealing; alternatively investors can sell in the market and buy a resurgent UniChem.

CU

GOOD profits from life insurance and from overseas managed to cheer investors in Commercial Union who are worried about the gloom that is afflicting composite insurers. The UK general insurance market is well off its peak, but overseas markets have become as important to the company. However, the results still failed to answer fundamental questions about strategy and, in particular, Victoire. Commercial Union's expensive French acquistion. The French market is still difficult, and although CU said yesterday that premium rates were still moving upwards, others in the French market see premiums peaking. If that is the case, it could be a disappointing outlook for CU, with the French operation apparently still experiencing weak underwriting margins.

Meanwhile, CU has demonstrated that it has played the insurance cycle well in the UK, with only a slight reduction in profit in spite of increased competition and a rise in claims from burst pipes. CU increased its motor-related business aggressively early in the cycle and over the past year has been trimming its exposure as rates have weakened.

CU is best seen as a portfolio of insurance businesses in different markets, but investors might have preferred a more focused strategy that avoided the huge goodwill write-off from Victoire, which has still to prove its worth.



Elf Aquitaine

IT IS the fashion for oil companies to display their financial targets and yesterday Elf said it expected to achieve a 10 per cent return on equity by 1998. Having produced satisfactory results, Elf may feel it can encourage investors with challenging targets. Unfortunately, non-French investors are less interested in the target figure than in precisely how Elf intends to achieve it.

Yesterday, Philippe Jaffré, the chairman, made impressive noises about huge upstream investments over the next five years. But Elf is making slow progress in the critical area of reserve replacement, only just managing 100 per cent of its production last year. That compares with industry averages nearer 120 per cent and does not reflect well of a company with such a heavy upstream bias.

Elf's target rate of return is well above last year's 7 per cent, but with the cost of capital in the oil industry of about 12 per cent, it is not an impressive target, even less so when other major oil companies are achieving 15 per cent. With the chemicals cycle past its peak, Elf needs success upstream to improve its share price and past performance gives little confidence.

My Kinda Town

WITH new restaurants opening on every corner, results from My Kinda Town were a useful reminder that the trade is vulnerable to shocks. The company's French business was decimated by French strikes and terrorist attacks, leaving profits unchanged despite growth in the UK and Germany.

The return of terrorist bombs in London must be a concern to the company, although restaurateurs claim that because a smaller proportion of their trade is tourist-related, they are less exposed than hoteliers. The argument suggests that after a brief interval, suburbanites will not be deterred from their night on the town.

For investors, the greater concern is the huge increase in restaurant capacity, recently accelerated by the fashion for the 200-plus seater venues. My Kinda Town's contract to run the Capital Radio restaurant at Leicester Square pits the firm against nearby Planet Hollywood and the planned Fashion Cafe, while in Covent Garden bids are being made for a restaurant site with a capacity for over 600 covers.

With huge fitting-out costs, investors need to be confident that the theme will last more than five years and My Kinda Town is sensibly not putting capital into the radio restaurant. In the end, the landlords may be the big winners in the restaurant craze.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	893-892	May	1012-1010
May	916-915	Jul	unq
Jul	940-939	Sep	
Sep	963-961	Dec	
Dec	978-977		
Mar	998-997	Volume: 4417	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2125-2120	Nov	1940-1839
May	1985-1980	Jan	1825-1822
Jul	1910-1908	Mar	1820-1800
Sep	1865-1864	Volume: 5734	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	314.4-11.0
Spot: 409.0		Mar	310.4-06.0
May	382.0-80.3	May	306.0-02.5
Aug	358.7-57.0	Aug	unq
Oct	325.1-22.5	Volume: 922	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 20

(p/kg lw)	Pigs	Sheep	Cattle
GB	105.12	129.68	119.50
(+/-)	-0.05	-3.56	+0.34
Eng.-Wales	105.15	129.97	117.93
(+/-)	-7.40	-3.75	+0.06
(+/-)	-14.0	-31.0	-31.0
Scotland	104.92	128.59	124.05
(+/-)	-0.76	-2.96	+0.02
(+/-)	-7.0	-52.0	+0.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.95	+0.40
Brent 15 day (Apr)	17.85	+0.30
Brent 15 day (May)	17.20	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	19.30	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (May)	18.70	+0.30

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	B	174 (+2)	O: 176 (+2)
Gasoil EEC		192 (+4)	196 (+5)
Non EEC 1H Mar		182 (+4)	185 (+4)
Non EEC 1H Apr		177 (+4)	179 (+4)
3.5 Fuel Oil		92 (+1)	94 (+1)
Naphtha		174 (+1)	175 in/ct

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	173.50-73.75	Jun	152.75-53.00
Apr	160.00-60.25	Jul	152.00 BID
May	155.50-55.75	Vol. 11756	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	17.84-17.85	Jul	16.64 SLR
May	17.21-17.23	Aug	16.47-16.50
Jun	16.88 SLR	Vol: 25845	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	118.05	Mar	109.40
May	120.75	May	110.50
Jul	123.80	Sep	105.80
Sep	110.70	Nov	107.50
Nov	112.35	Jan	110.50
Volume: 468		Volume: 60	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	176.0	175.5
May	196.0	195.0
Volume: 30		

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Mar 108.50-109.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 96	1428	1410	1415
Mar 96	1475	1430	1492
Apr 96	1470	1425	1430
Jul 96	1335	1310	1310
Vol: 125 lots	Open Interest: 4683		
	Index 1419 -7		

(Official) (Volume prev day)

Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2499.0-2500.0
Lead ($/tonne)	783.00-783.50
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1028.5-1029.0
Tin ($/tonne)	6215.0-6220.0
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1589.0-1590.0
Nickel ($/tonne)	8210.0-8215.0

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rostoff Wolff

Settle: 2472.0-2473.0 Vol: 16497700

3 month	777.00-778.00
Settlement	1029.0
3 month	6275.0-6280.0
Settlement	1615.5-1619.0
3 month	8215.0-8216.0
Settlement	8215.0

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 96	3694.0	3726.0	3694.0	3721.0	12184
Previous open interest: 64211	Jun 96	3700.0	3716.5	3700.0	3725.5	2013
FT-SE 250	Mar 96				4180.0	0
Previous open interest: 3311	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 96	93.77	93.80	93.77	93.88	16873
Previous open interest: 393098	Jun 96	93.77	93.97	93.76	93.94	54145
	Sep 96	93.64	93.85	93.60	93.81	38291
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 96				94.73	0
Previous open interest: 0						
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 96	96.53	96.59	96.52	96.56	35834
Previous open interest: 1095169	Jun 96	96.54	96.60	96.52	96.59	58876
Long Gilt	Mar 96	106-23	108-00	106-23	107-31	84442
Previous open interest: 139579	Jun 96	106-00	107-07	106-00	107-07	458
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	118.77	118.93	118.67	118.80	2935
	Jun 96	117.26	117.43	117.18	117.31	5870
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 96	96.18	97.45	96.15	97.39	318831
Previous open interest: 272501	Jun 96	96.45	96.56	95.44	96.58	26205
Three month ECU	Mar 96	95.12	95.24	95.12	95.19	1891
Previous open interest: 24717	Jun 96	95.24	95.33	95.24	95.28	1284
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 96	98.10	98.16	98.09	98.15	3952
Previous open interest: 67241	Jun 96	97.95	98.05	97.90	98.00	5900
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96	107.10	109.10	107.10	108.97	73822
Previous open interest: 62688	Jun 96	107.04	108.41	107.04	108.60	1995

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6%. Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6½ Week fixed: 6⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅜ ; 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth: 5¹⁵/₁₆ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-5¹⁵/₁₆	5¹⁵/₁₆-5¹⁵/₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Overnight: open 6⅛, close 7⅛ .					
Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.18	n/a	5.15	5.11	5.10
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-5	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5-4
Deutschemark:	3¼-3⅛	3⅛-3	3⅜-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	4-3
French Franc:	4¼-4	4¼-4	4¼-4	4¼-4	4¼-3½
Swiss Franc:	1¾-1½	1¾-1½	1¾-1½	1¾-1½	2-1
Yen:	⅛-0	⅛-0	⅛-0	⅛-0	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $397.80-398.20 Close: $396.90-397.40 High: $399.50-400.00
Low: $394.40-394.90 AM: $396.50 PM: $396.80

Krugerrand: $397.25-399.25 (£256.00-258.00)

Platinum: $415.40 (£269.20) Silver: $5.53 (£3.579) Palladium: $140.00 (£90.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for Feb 21	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5046-2.5149	2.5085-2.5117	⅛-¼pr	2-1¼pr
Brussels	45.98-46.22	46.09-46.18	13-10pr	33-28pr
Copenhagen	8.6550-8.6860	8.6570-8.6790	1¼-1pr	3¾-2¾pr
Dublin	0.9700-0.9750	0.9700-0.9726	12-8pr	26-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2369-2.2450	2.2389-2.2430	¼-¼pr	1¼-1pr
Lisbon	233.25-234.31	233.42-234.05	20-67ds	77-122ds
Madrid	188.03-189.25	188.03-188.92	41-94ds	117-134ds
Milan	2427.50-2437.10	2427.80-2431.80	7-9ds	25-26ds
Montreal	2.1264-2.1360	2.1264-2.1294	0.30-0.24pr	0.95-0.82pr
New York	1.5418-1.5448	1.5418-1.5425	0.14-0.12pr	0.35-0.32pr
Oslo	9.7900-9.8190	9.7900-9.8120	1¼-¼pr	2¾-1¾pr
Paris	7.7180-7.7370	7.7220-7.7360	1¼-¼pr	3¼-2¼pr
Stockholm	10.4200-10.5070	10.4200-10.4440	¼-¼ds	¼-¼ds
Tokyo	162.14-162.98	162.14-162.46	¼pr	2¼-2¼pr
Vienna	15.72-15.79	15.76-15.78	¼-¼pr	1¼-1¼pr
Zurich	1.8210-1.8312	1.8282-1.8310	¼-¼pr	2-1¾pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3315-1.3324
Austria	10.21-10.22
Belgium (Com)	29.87-29.91
Canada	1.3806-1.3811
Denmark	5.6165-5.6195
France	5.0055-5.0075
Germany	1.4522-1.4532
Hong Kong	7.7332-7.7342
Ireland	1.5880-1.5900
Italy	1573.00-1573.50
Japan	105.30-105.40
Malaysia	2.5505-2.5525
Netherlands	1.6260-1.6270
Norway	6.3558-6.3578
Portugal	151.45-151.55
Singapore	1.4020-1.4030
Spain	122.38-122.46
Sweden	6.7740-6.7840
Switzerland	1.1848-1.1858

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5439-1.5465
Australia dollar	2.0551-2.0578
Bahrain dinar	0.5770-0.5890
Brazil real*	1.5099-1.5141
China yuan	12.00 Buyer
Cyprus pound	0.7850-0.7150
Finland markka	6.9400-7.0560
Greece drachma	368.00-375.00
Hong Kong dollar	11.9374-11.9428
India rupee	56.12-57.08
Indonesia rupiah	3528.00-3596.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4575-0.4675
Malaysia ringgit	3.4372-3.9416
New Zealand dollar	2.2832-2.2863
Pakistan rupee	52.94 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7375-5.8635
Singapore dollar	2.1647-2.1676
S Africa rand (comi)	6.0760-6.1780
U A E dirham	5.6200-5.7440

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	893	Land Secs	1,300
ASDA Gp	8,600	Legal & Gn	2,600
Abbey Nat	24,000	Lloyds TSB	10,000
Allied Dom	2,300	Marks Spr	7,600
Argos	200	NatWst Bk	13,000
Argyll Gp	1,200	Nat Grid	5,600
All Foods	1,200	Nat Power	2,700
BAA	3,600	P & O	2,600
BAT Inds	5,300	Pearson	2,000
BOC	617	Pilkington	3,000
BP	4,000	PowerGen	926
BSkyB	2,200	Prudential	4,200
BTR	7,700	REXAM	1,100
BT	8,900	RMC	631
Bk of Scot	4,300	RTZ	2,200
Barclays	6,000	Rank Org	3,300
Bass	742	Reckitt Col	2,500
Blue Circle	1,400	Redland	904
Boots	924	Reed Intl	1,400
BAe	1,000	Rentokil	6,300
BA	4,000	Reuters	2,000
Brit Gas	4,700	Rolls Royce	5,000
Brit Steel	11,000	Royal Ins	3,400
Burmah Cstl	114	Ryl Bk Scot	3,900
Burton	1,500	Sainsbury	4,000
Cable Wire	3,900	Schroders	30
Cadbury	4,900	Scot & Newc	1,600
Carlton Cms	1,700	Scot Power	2,200
Cm Union	2,500	Svrn Trent	676
Cookson	2,100	Shell Trans	4,400
Courtaulds	2,700	Sidlaw	1,500
Dixons	3,700	Smith Bch	7,600
Enterpr Oil	899	Smith Nph	1,100
For & Col IT	416	Smiths Inds	227
GKN	298	Sthern Elec	646
GRE	2,800	Std Chartd	1,200
GUS	1,900	Sun Allince	3,100
Gen Acc	1,400	TI Gp	1,000
Gen Elec	4,200	Tate & Lyle	2,000
Glaxo Well	2,900	Tesco	3,500
Granada	1,700	Thames W	771
Grand Met	2,100	Thrn EMI	1,400
Greenalls	207	Tomkins	2,100
Guinness	3,300	Unilever	5,100
HSBC	2,100	United Utils	1,100
Hanson	9,400	Vodafone	9,400
ICI	1,600	Whitbread	1,600
Kingfisher	682	Wllms Hld	966
LASMO	2,000	Wolseley	1,000
Ladbroke	11,000	Zeneca	3,600

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Allied Dom	500	36	43	51	5	15	19½
(*524)	550	11	17½	27	29	43	45½
Argyll	500	15½	22	26	7	17	19
(*536)	550	4	10	13	26	35½	37½
ASDA	100	9	10½	13	2	4½	6
(*104)	110	3	5½	8	4	9½	11½
Bass	600	29	31	39½	14½	25	32
(*667)	650	4	12	23	50	59½	64
Br Airways	500	19	26½	39	13	24	27
(*501)	550	3½	9	18	49	58	59
BP	500	30½	40½	46½	5	12	16
(*521)	550	6	15	22	30½	36	41
Br Steel	160	15½	19	21	2	7	9½
(*172)	180	4½	9	11	11	14	20
C & W	460	22½	35	41½	15½	25½	29½
(*462)	500	9½	19	25	41	49½	53
Cbl	600	22½	35½	43	21	39½	38½
(*619)	650	5	16	23½	59	62½	70
ICI	800	38½	54½	63½	16	26	37½
(*932)	950	12	30	39	44½	53	63½
Kingfisher	500	20½	29½	38½	17	26½	31½
(*507)	550	3½	11½	19½	55½	60	63½
Land Sec	600	24½	32	39	7	16	23½
(*627)	650	4	9	14	38	53½	56
M & S	420	15	22	29	6	14	21
(*422)	460	2½	7	12	37½	44½	46½
Nat West	650	51	62	70	10½	19½	27½
(*699)	750	17	35	45	54½	62	62
Sainsbury	360	29½	33	38	3	9½	12
(*362)	400	10	16	22½	38½	42½	45½
Shell	800	9½	54	62	9	14½	22
(*848)	850	19	24	32½	33½	39	48½
Smith Bch	700	58½	62½	69½	39½	53½	55
(*708)	750	7	30½	39½	49½	56½	63
Sturrock	300	12	25	30	6	12½	16
(*307)	350	4½	11½	16½	24	29	32
Trafalgar	35	6	8	10	2½	4½	6
(*38)	40	3½	6½	8	5	7	9
Unilever	1200	74	92	99	26	35½	39½
(*1213)	1250	16	29½	44	61	66½	69
Zeneca	1250	58	89½	109	24½	42½	53½
(*1240)	1250	30½	62	82	47½	57	77

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
Grnd Met	420	19	31½	40	0	8½	17
(*436)	460	0	11	21	24	29½	36
Ladbroke	180	6	14	23	0	13	17
(*186)	200	0	8	14½	14	24½	29
Utd Biscs	220	14½	18	24	0	7	10
(*234)	240	0	9	14	5½	16	21

February 21, 1996 Tot: 47939 Call: 17851
Put: 29778 FT-SE Call: 3533 Put: 7455
*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	460	38	46	53	3	9	12
(*481)	500	12	21½	29½	17	25½	29
Thames W	500	43½	51	54½	2	12½	19
(*536)	550	10½	20½	26½	20½	29	41

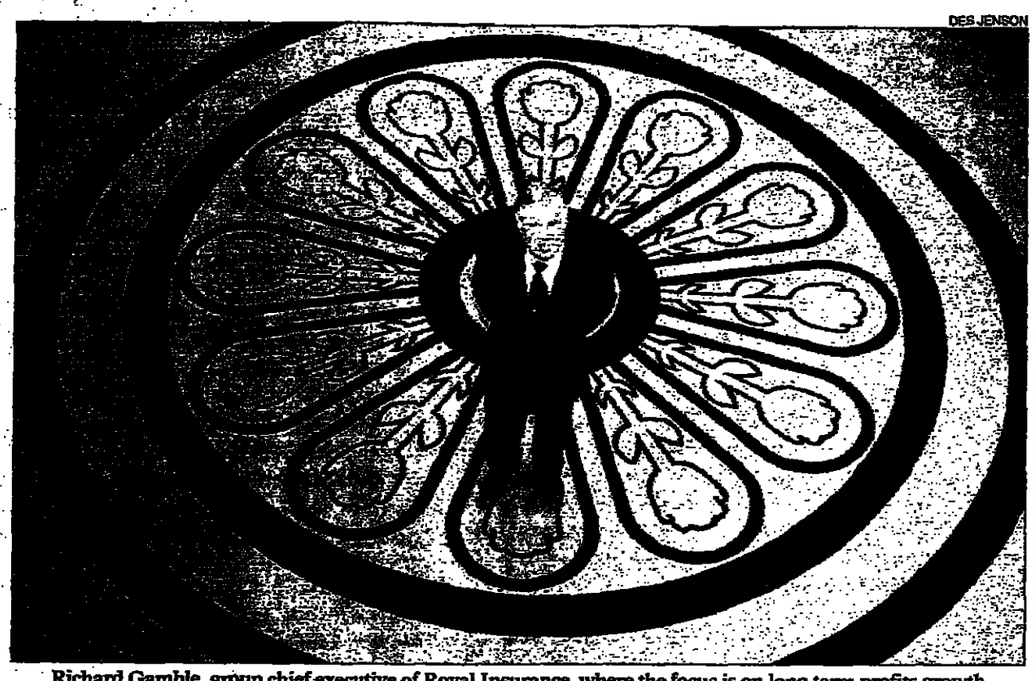
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	21	32	41½	0	17½	25
(*571)	600	0	10½	21½	29	44	52
BTR	300	23½	29½	29½	0	4

هكذا من الأصل

Royal Insurance shrugs off rise in weather-related claims

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

DES JENSON



Richard Gamble, group chief executive of Royal Insurance, where the focus is on long-term profits growth

SUBSIDENCE, December's freeze and the worst Caribbean hurricanes since 1961, cost Royal Insurance £172 million in weather-related losses in 1995.

In total, worldwide weather claims were up £104 million, to £282 million, for the year ending December 31. This included £34 million in losses from three Caribbean hurricanes, and a doubling of UK weather losses to £138 million.

The Royal said that since it writes 20 per cent of premiums in the Caribbean region, it hoped to recoup losses there within two years.

Overall, pre-tax profits for the group rose by £31 million to a record £498 million and the total dividend for the year increased by 4p to 16p.

The results were boosted by a strong performance in the United States, where there was a £63 million improvement in the profit on general business operations, which achieved £72 million. General insurance underwriting in Chile also performed well, producing a £5 million profit.

Worldwide, life business returned a 68 per cent increase in profits to £99 million, although new annual premiums worldwide dropped to £79 million (£99 million in 1994), and new single premiums to £334 million (£459 million).

In the UK, general insurance premiums fell 5 per cent. The Royal said rates had been reduced during the year because there were fewer claims and more competition, including that from direct insurers. The public's fears over life products hit new single-premium business the hardest: profits in that sector almost halved, from £408 million in 1994 to £220 million last year. Despite a further fall in house sales, the estate agency operation managed, through cost savings, to reduce its operating loss from £621 million to £18 million.

The company does not expect its losses from the bomb in Docklands, east London, two weeks ago, to reach more than £1 million. Most of the loss, which is currently estimated at between £75 million and £100 million, will be borne by Pool Re, the Government-backed mutual reinsurance company. The Royal's shares rose 1p yesterday to 387p. Analysts said that they were still cheap because the net asset value was currently 406p per share.

The insurer has spent £30 million improving information technology in its offices and has just won a £300 million account from the Halifax to write its household insurance policies. However, Richard Gamble, group chief executive, said the most important strategy was to protect margins. "Our emphasis is on long-term profits growth," he said. "At no time do we chase market share."

He was interested in expanding the group's life business, but would only buy if the price were right, he added.

DTI plan for small firms welcomed

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) yesterday welcomed government proposals that aim to help struggling small companies to avoid going into receivership.

The Department of Trade and Industry's insolvency service has sent a consultation document to the CBI and various associations asking for their comments. The response so far has been broadly favourable.

Ian Peters, head of the CBI's small and medium enterprise unit, said he was still studying the proposals, but said they were in line with CBI thinking. "We need to look for ways of creating a rescue culture," he said.

The document suggests ways of keeping creditors at bay. A company which is in difficulties and has applied for the appointment of an administrator could not, as now, be forced into the hands of a receiver by a single creditor unless its own security was at risk.

PF higher

Provident Financial, the Bradford consumer finance group, has increased its dividend by 37 per cent to 28p for 1995, after a decision at the half-year to reduce dividend cover from 2 per cent to 1.75 per cent and an increase in earnings per share of 24 per cent to 50.33p. The final dividend of 17p is due on May 2. Pre-tax profits increased to £101.1 million.

Metalbox falls

Metalbox, the Anglo-French packaging group, suffered a 15 per cent fall in profits. After minority interests they declined to Fr805 million in 1995, from Fr950 million, as sales dipped 1.1 per cent to Fr24.61 billion. Net earnings fell to Fr9.4 (Fr11.6) a share. The results are for the last financial year before its absorption by Crown Cork & Seal, the US packaging group.

On target

Heinrich von Pierer, president and chief executive officer of Siemens AG, the German electronics and electrical engineering giant, is sticking to his forecast of 20 to 25 per cent profit growth in the current year to September 30.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Woolwich ahead 10%

WOOLWICH, the UK's third largest building society, increased pre-tax profits 10 per cent last year to £333 million. The society, which plans to pay an average bonus worth £900 to three million savers and borrowers on becoming a stock market company next summer, said the figure included reorganisation costs of £12 million. Peter Robinson, chief executive, said the depressed housing market had led to a fall in mortgage lending to £3.1 billion (£3.3 billion).

Morgan Sindall revival

MORGAN SINDALL, the construction group, yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £3 million for the year to December 31, against a loss of £3.4 million last time. Earnings per share were 8.03p, compared with a loss of 36.58p. There is a final dividend of 1.85p, giving a total dividend of 2.7p. The company attributed the turnround to its decision to concentrate on office refurbishment and other specialist services.

Admiral boosted by sale

ADMIRAL, the computer services group, yesterday reported pre-tax profits for 1995 up 27 per cent to £9.8 million. This includes an exceptional profit of £2.2 million from the sale of 49 per cent of Powersoft UK. It said turnover was up 32 per cent to £65.5 million while operating profit was up 31 per cent to £7.4 million. The company's directors recommended a final dividend of 6.5p, making a total for the year of 9.4p.

Hotel group plans float

MACDONALD HOTELS yesterday issued a prospectus for its stock market debut and said its pre-tax profit for the year to March 31 should be at least £4.7 million, compared with £3.66 million. The group, which owns 16 three and four-star hotels in the UK and manages 53 others, aims to raise £23.8 million, net of expenses. The offer price will be announced on March 7. Trading is expected to start on March 14.

Trust raises £25m

INTERNATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY TRUST, the investment fund managed by Rothschild Asset Management, yesterday raised £25 million through the private placement of 25 million "C" shares, at £1 each, with institutional investors. Another five million "C" shares will be offered to existing IBT investors at the same price. All the shares will convert to ordinary shares once the new funds are 80 per cent invested.

Streamline chief's £3.9m bonanza

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

TERRY SIMPSON, chief executive of Streamline, will hold shares worth about £3.9 million when the specialist road and building service company completes a £112 million stock market flotation at the end of the month.

Streamline is placing 22.2 million shares at 180p with dealings expected to begin on February 29. Mr Simpson holds 950,000 ordinary shares and has options granted at 6.25p on 1,250,000 other shares. Five other directors will hold shares worth about £1.9 million.

Streamline was formed in 1993 after a buyout, led by Charterhouse Development Capital, of a number of specialist businesses from Shell. The company will raise about £20 million from the float, which will be used to reduce indebtedness.

Charterhouse will continue to hold a 28.25 per cent stake, with other institutions owning a further 15.25 per cent and the directors holding a total of 14.4 per cent. Streamline said that the institutions had made a commitment not to sell, except to the company's brokers, before April 1997.

Yesterday, Streamline unveiled estimated results for 1995 with profits rising 18 per cent to £15.3 million on a turnover up 13.5 per cent to £157.5 million. The notional gross dividend yield is 5.3 per cent, while earnings per share are estimated at 15.5p.

Courtaulds Textiles profits wilt

COURTAULDS TEXTILES, Britain's second-largest textiles group, reported a 23 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £36.5 million in the year to December 31 (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Stripping out one-off items, profits fell 12 per cent to £40.4 million, broadly in line with City forecasts after a profit warning last Christmas.

The company blamed the downturn on the unusually hot autumn weather and stock problems in France and the US. Noel Jervis, chief executive, said: "After a strong start to the year, the outcome for 1995 was adversely affected by a marked deterioration in the trading environment in the important second half."

The dividend was held at 10.1p for a total of 15p.

Robinson makes plea to Labour

BY ROBERT MILLER

ANN ROBINSON, Director-General of the powerful National Association of Pension Funds, whose members look after £350 billion of assets, yesterday called on the Labour Party to "come clean" and spell out what legislation is needed to make its "stakeholder" policy a reality.

Dr Robinson, who was addressing delegates on the second day of the NAPF's investment conference in Eastbourne, said that if the Labour party wanted to encourage wider and deeper share ownership or promote employee share schemes, then the association would be supportive. If, however, the stakeholder policy was meant to diminish the voice and power of shareholders, then the NAPF would oppose it.

Dr Robinson said there should be a strong contractural relationship between employers and employees with clear obligations on both sides. Employees should be set clear objectives and be rewarded or promoted on achievment "rather than friendship". She added: "The only stakeholder is the shareholder."

John Kay of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, disagreed with the NAPF line. He told delegates: "Large companies are not owned by their shareholders... The objective of a company should be to develop its business, not to maximise shareholder value."

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Lex forecasts cutbacks in car industry as sales fall

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

A THIRD of Britain's motor dealerships are likely to disappear during the next five years as the embattled motor industry undergoes a period of retrenchment. Sir Trevor Chinn, chairman of Lex Service, said.

Provisions to enable Lex, Britain's biggest motor dealer, to rationalise its own operations contributed to a 24.3 per cent slump in its full-year profits.

Sir Trevor said demand for new cars remains flat in Britain. "The car industry is in a period of change. Manufacturers will want fewer, larger dealerships. This has happened in the truck business."

He added that manufacturers are using surplus capacity to supply more cars directly to larger fleets and are destabilising the market by discounted sales of nearly new cars.

Sir Trevor's comments came as Lex reported a £9.8 million exceptional charge to cover the cost of selling and closing dealerships, trimming pre-tax profits to £32.1 million in the year to December 31. Turnover, boosted by acquisitions, edged up to £1.56 billion (£1.42 billion). Lex's new car sales fell 5 per cent to 86,000 in 1995.

Sir Trevor said: "While there are no clear signs of recovery in the new car market, all of our businesses have made a promising start to 1996."

The group intends to lessen its dependence on the franchised sale of new cars and concentrate on higher-margin activity in contract hire of cars and trucks. Lex is currently in the process of reducing its dealerships from about 100 to 60 by the end of the first half.

A final dividend of 9p (8.2p), payable on April 10, gives a total of 15p (13.7p) for the year. Shares added 8p to 310p.

Qantas flies higher on the back of cost cutting



Pemberton: critical process

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

QANTAS, Australia's national airline, which made its debut on the Australian stock market six months ago, yesterday confirmed that its A$1 billion (£500 million) cost-cutting programme was firmly on track as it unveiled a 21.5 per cent increase in half-year operating profits to A$246.5 million.

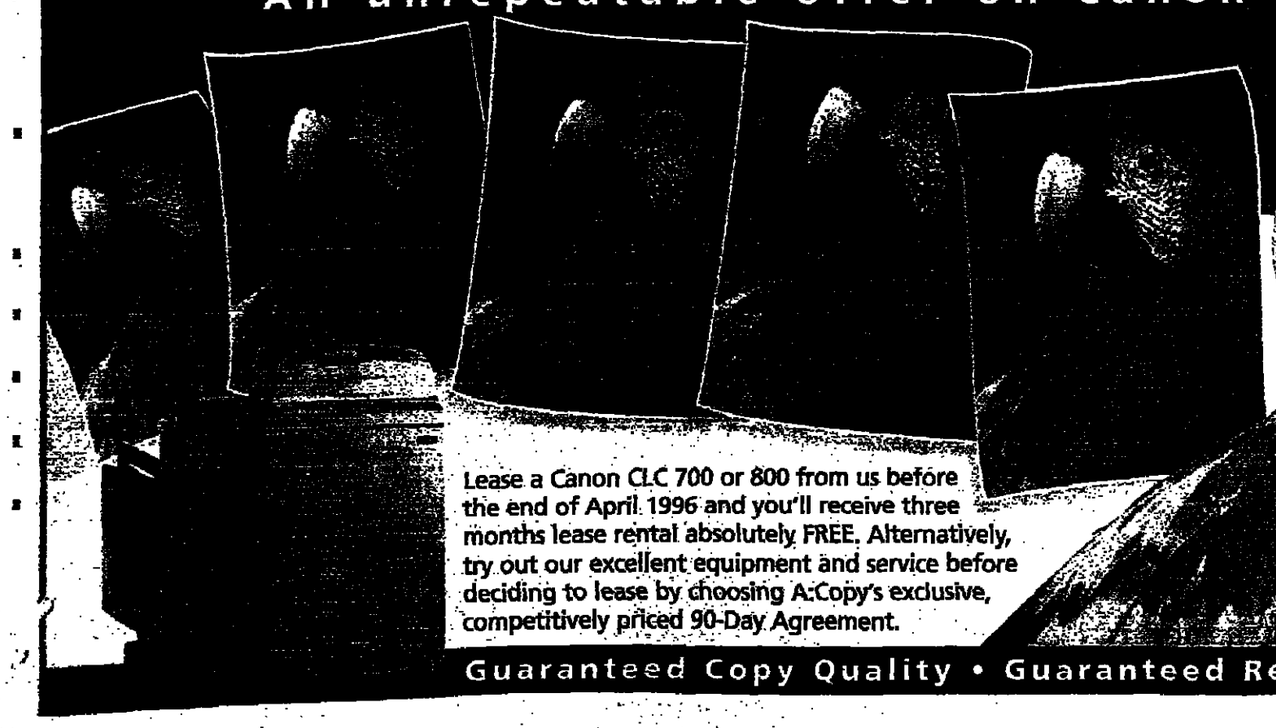
The airline, in which British Airways has a 25 per cent stake, said that it had made cost savings of A$150 million in the half year to December and planned to do the same in the second half.

Its alliance with British Airways, including a joint services agreement, which started last year, brought in cost savings of A$40 million.

Gary Pemberton, chairman, said: "The process of reallocating assets to lift productivity and improve profitability is critical in the current competitive environment."

Qantas shares, which were floated on the Australian stock exchange at A$2, rose 3 cents to A$2.33 on the news. Mr Pemberton said that the airline was on course to make predicted operating profits of A$400 for the full year to June 1996.

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British industry 'under funded'

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE investment record in Britain is depressingly low compared with our major competitors, the deputy governor of the Bank of England told senior fund managers responsible for £350 billion of pension assets.

Howard Davies, formerly the director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, made his remarks yesterday on the opening day of the National Association of Pension Funds' (NAPF) three-day investment conference in Eastbourne.

Mr Davies told delegates that not only was investment growth in the UK weaker than when we emerged from the recession in the early 1980s, but that Britain lagged behind its main industrial competitors. He said: "Over a lengthy period we have invested a lower proportion of GDP (gross domestic product) than our main industrial competitors."

He continued: "Over the last 30 years the UK average is around 18 per cent versus 22 per cent for France and Germany and around 30 per cent for Japan. Even the US share of investment has been slightly higher than the UK's."

Even though the economy is growing, Mr Davies added, "The bald figures would suggest that investment growth has been considerably weaker in this recovery than it was a decade ago." The worst aspect, he said, was that commercial construction had "not picked up at all".

Geoff Lindey, chairman of the NAPF's Investment Committee, strongly defended the investment record of NAPF members. He said: "The problem is not one of institutional investors failing to invest in British companies.

He said that investment in the UK had tended to come from overseas companies. "Take the motor industry," he said. "We have seen huge investments running into billions of pounds in recent years. But where were the British companies?"



CHRIS HARRIS

Sean O'Connor, chairman of Stoves, left, with John Crathorne, the chief executive, who yesterday unveiled a 13 per cent rise in their pre-tax profits to £1.5 million in the six months to December 2. Sales rose 24 per cent to £27.9 million. The cooker manufacturer is paying a maiden interim dividend of 1.7p out of earnings of 6.1p a share. The shares fell 20p, to 280p, compared with last summer's flotation price of 163p

MPs attack Tecs for 'modest' record on improving training

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government's business-led Training and Enterprise Councils have made only a "modest" contribution to improving training in Britain, an influential Commons committee said yesterday.

The all-party Commons Employment Select Committee called for radical changes to the business-dominated boards that run Tecs in England and Wales. In a critical report, it said their impact on training has been less than was hoped for, and made clear it was "alarmed" at the measurement of Tecs' performance and the way they spend £1.7 billion of public money.

The findings and recommendations of the committee are only the latest criticism to be made of the Tecs, which were set up five years ago to change the way training is run in the UK. The Nolan committee on standards in public life is expected shortly to increase pressure on Tecs by also recommending changes to their governing boards to make them more accountable.

Currently, Tecs — described by the committee as private-sector companies with a public role — have more than 750 business leaders on their governing boards, though the MPs said there were "difficulties in reconciling the need for Government to exercise proper financial controls with the dynamism which Tecs were supposed to bring to the task of local regeneration".

In their report, the MPs concluded that Tecs had made a "modest contribution to the improvement of the system of training for the unemployed, and to the promotion of economic regeneration and enterprise within the local economy", and that "their performance in placing people in work and gaining qualifications appears to reflect economic conditions, and not to overcome them".

Tecs, the committee said, have a wider problem: "As effectively monopoly contractors with the Government, they are comparatively immune to the competitive discipline of the private sector, and in some cases are slow to win the trust and confidence of local communities."

To overcome this, the committee urged the Government to abandon the founding principle that local business leaders who serve on Tecs' governing boards should be at company chairman and chief executive level. It proposed the Secretary of State appoint one business board member who is not a chairman or chief executive to allow the appointment of executives from larger national companies.

The Tecs' national council welcomed the "balanced and thoughtful" report, though Chris Humphries, policy director, said it could not support all the recommendations.

Zeneca plan to merge seeds business

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

ZENECA is in advanced talks to merge Zeneca Seeds with Royal VanderHave of The Netherlands, part of Suiker Unie, the farming co-operative group, to form a large international seeds joint venture.

The merged company, to be called Zeneca VanderHave, will be 50/50 owned by the groups. It will have annual sales of about £300 million and be in the top five seeds groups in the world.

Zeneca's 1,500 employees at its agricultural seeds business in Fernhurst, Surrey, will merge with Royal VanderHave's 1,000 employees to form a new business based at Kapelle in The Netherlands.

An overlap may have an implication for jobs, although Zeneca Seeds has about only 80 employees in the UK, with the remainder overseas.

The joint venture will bring together bioscience and commercial resources to reinforce existing strengths in agricultural crops such as sugarbeet, maize, oilseeds, grasses, cereals, and vegetables. Zeneca Seeds now has annual worldwide sales of £150 million. It hopes to break even this year.

A spokesman for Zeneca said that the merged entity would have improved scope for profitability and strengthening its research and development base, marketing coverage, product span, and geographic spread.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

My Kinda Town plans expansion

MY KINDA TOWN, the restaurants group that owns the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory, Chicago Meatpackers and Henry J Bean's Bar and Grill, is looking to expand further in spite of a 23 per cent drop in first-half profits. Tough trading conditions in France, exacerbated by strikes and terrorist incidents in Paris, are blamed for a fall in group pre-tax profits to £1.02 million (£1.33 million) in the six months to December 31. Turnover, boosted by six new openings, grew 19 per cent to £15.2 million. There was an exceptional charge of £121,000, relating to French closure provisions.

The company, which operates a total of 44 outlets in 14 countries, said it is on target for at least 12 openings in this financial year. It recently emerged that My Kinda Town will manage Capital Radio's new 300-seat themed radio restaurant, which is due to open in London's Leicester Square by the end of the summer. The interim dividend is maintained at 1p and is payable on April 26, from earnings of 3.3p (4p) a share. Tempus, page 26

Wagon warning

SHARES in Wagon, the engineering company, dropped 32p to 389p yesterday after it delivered a warning that full-year profits would fall below expectations. The company, which specialises in precision springs for the automotive industry, blamed a fall in demand and difficulties in integrating recent acquisitions. However, John Hudson, the chief executive of Wagon, said that underlying demand levels were expected to improve. He added: "It is still expected that reasonable progress will be made and the group approaches the new financial year with confidence."

German firms gloomy

GERMAN industry yesterday gave its gloomiest forecast on the economy for years, saying that it expects almost no growth and a jump in unemployment this year. Presenting its spring survey of German industry, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce (DIHT) undercut the growth forecasts of the Bonn Government by predicting stagnation. Franz Schoser, DIHT managing director, said: "The economy has cooled off again. We see very slight growth this year at best. The economy will have great difficulty regaining momentum ... the mood among firms has hit a low point." The government is predicting 1.5 per cent growth in gross domestic product.

TBI's £17m in sales

TBI, the London and Cardiff-based property investment and development company, has disposed of a further £17.4 million of property investments. The investments sold include the first disposal from the Molyneux portfolio, which was acquired at the end of December. The Molyneux property is the long leasehold interest in a Cheshire shopping centre, which has been sold to Asda, the Leeds-based supermarket group, and brings the total from disposals since the beginning of TBI's financial year last April to nearly £25 million.

Reuters wins award

REUTERS has won this year's award for the best annual report and accounts. Triplex-Lloyd, the West Midland engineering company, won the award for smaller companies. Richard Sykes, QC, chairman of the judges of the awards, which are sponsored by the Stock Exchange and the three chartered accountancy institutes, described the Reuters accounts as "full of action and excitement" and praised the mass of material in the report's financial review. Although he thought the overall standard of reporting was "edging up", he said that many reports from smaller companies were "inept".

ACCOUNTANCY

Who will audit the auditors?

John Roques considers the needs of a body to oversee standards in the profession

Much time has been taken over the past few years over the arrangements for regulating and disciplining auditors. Several working parties have been set up and the most recent of these, chaired by Chris Swinson, is soon to issue its final report.

Some believe that this report will recommend that the disciplinary and regulatory activities of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales should be grouped under an office for professional standards and that a new body should consider the extent to which the public interest is served.

It is also expected to recommend that the position of the Auditing Practices Board should be considered by a working party. If true, these proposals are largely a continuation of the past and are just bureaucratic — not a sound future for the profession.

There are three principles that must underlie any new system. First, it must be seen to provide the level of independence that the public has a right to expect. Second, it must eliminate the duplication of disciplinary effort by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Institute. Third, it must be free of unnecessary levels of red tape for smaller audit firms. Most commentators also agree that practitioner-led regulation is more efficient so long as the public interest needs are met.

What solution would achieve these aims? Deloitte & Touche recommends that the whole organisation for regulating and disciplining "public interest entity" auditors should be supervised by the Financial Reporting Council, thus bringing the responsibility for controlling the development and enforcement of both accounting and auditing standards under one body.

The Auditing Practices Board would have an equivalent role to that of the Accounting Standards Board. A new disciplinary body, with powers not unlike those of the Review Panel, should take over the roles of both the Joint Disciplinary Scheme and inquiries made of professional firms by inspectors appointed by the DTI. This would meet the public expectation that all standard-setting, regulation and disciplinary activities should be dealt with under one umbrella independent of the institutes. The structure would be credible and have longevity as it builds on the considerable respect and stature which the Financial Reporting Council has already established. Only by separating the public interest cases and applying the requisite level of investigation and action to such cases, will it be possible to avoid the non-public interest cases and small audit firms being weighed down with unnecessary red tape. The difficulties of defining public interest should not be used as an excuse for keeping everything within one system. The profession's Joint Disciplinary Scheme has been applied to public-interest cases only for well over a decade.

Some argue that a fast-moving disciplinary panel would increase their litigation risks. There is an obvious response from those who seek fairness in these matters. In return for auditors sacrificing the shelter of the institutes, the DTI should change the law to provide for limited liability partnerships in the UK and follow the lead of the US Congress by substituting a system of proportional liability for joint and several liability for auditors.

Will these proposals be adequate for those who wish to establish an SEC in the UK? The SEC is expensive regulation and dominated by lawyers rather than those involved in the practices of financial reporting and auditing. There is no evidence that 50 years of regulation by the SEC has solved the problem of audit standards in the United States. If a government determines to establish a companies commission, this would not be a disaster by itself, so long as it restricted its activity in the regulation of the accounting profession to oversight of the Financial Reporting Council.

Some are concerned that our views diminish the standing of the Institute. I disagree. I think this gives them the opportunity to develop further the faculties that should be seen as world-class centres of excellence.

If the audit faculty took on leadership in a coherent strategy to prevent and detect corporate fraud, then we would really be back on the road to eliminating the expectation gap and re-establishing the standing of the profession.

The author is Senior Partner, Deloitte & Touche



John Roques lists three principles for any new system

The issues are now out in the open

THERE were times during last week's mournful press briefing to announce the failure of the attempt to merge the English ICA and Cima, the management accounting body, when you would have not been at all surprised to find both presidents breaking into the mode of the popular financial services advertisement and singing, "Let's face the music, and dance".

But, as events this week show, the real action, the positive work of the profession, continues unabated elsewhere. We have had a robust set of proposals from the Auditing Practices Board (APB), which redefine and clarify the strength of independent auditors, the opening of a tumultuous battle over the principles of financial reporting, and seen the Accounting Standards Board (ASB) under serious and sustained attack for the first time.

These are issues which are at the heart of what accountants are about, yet none of the debate or argument emanated from the English ICA. It might argue that this is not entirely truthful. The APB is an offshoot of the accountancy bodies, it could say. This is true. But the APB is striving desperately for freedom from the clammy and restrictive hand of its parent. The APB president, Ian Paistowe, of Arthur Andersen, made no secret of this earlier in the week. "We have told the accountancy bodies that we don't believe we belong with you," he said. Rumours are rife of shouting matches between Paistowe and the institute leadership. This cannot be pleasant. Paistowe is more of a rapier than a bludgeon man. These are painful times for Moorgate Place. But the leadership in the audit world is coming from the APB. Ian Percy, its vice-chairman, said this week that "auditing is about governance, it is critical for the confidence in business operations, our capital markets and the public sector". That sounds like someone who has got his priorities right. Equally, the extraordinary attack on the ASB by Ernst & Young takes the debate over the future of financial reporting out into the open. But it is open ground, far from the English institute.



ROBERT BRUCE

The debate is one which was dealt with in these pages when the ASB first published its Statement of Principles. Now Ernst & Young is having one final push. The press release dramatised the issue: "The future of UK financial reporting — one month to decide", it was headed. This is not entirely true. Responses to the ASB's statement are indeed due in at the end of March. But that is not the end of the matter.

The argument has escalated. Nick Land, Ernst & Young's senior partner, has entered the fray. In the foreword to the firm's booklet, *Time to Decide*, he says that the ASB "seems to be pursuing a rather academic agenda of its own, unprompted by user demand, that envisages the abandonment of historical cost accounting in favour of a system based on current values".

Any readers who recall the interminable debates over accounting for inflation, as the debate over historical versus current values was once termed, will groan inwardly at this point. It is an endless and fruitless debate. Ian Davison, of Storehouse, who is no spring chicken himself, will tell you that his father was on one of the original working parties to debate the issue around the time that Everest was being conquered and Queen Elizabeth came to the throne. But the debate over current values will never be conquered. Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB, will argue that theory no longer matters on that one. It is simply the logic of substance over form which dictates a change. "Items in the balance sheet should be genuine assets and genuine liabilities", he will say. Ron Paterson, Ernst & Young's technical partner, who wrote the booklet, argues that Tweedie is academic to an extreme. "We are driven," says Paterson, "to the Luddite end of the spectrum to counter Tweedie's radical extremes." Maybe the heart of the matter can be seen in Nick Land's foreword. Referring to the ASB's principles he said: "Some of its proposals are theoretical to the point that they are scarcely comprehensible by most accountants and other businessmen. Accounting, traditionally the language of business, is at risk of being taken over by the rhetoric of theorists."

It is possible, perhaps, to read between the lines here. Company directors are conservative and dislike new rules. Finance directors find it painful to confront them with Tweedie's new realities. There is commercial advantage in being an accounting firm that seems to support the harassed company director against the bogey of radical accounting theorists. Whatever the reasons, it is good to be back on serious ground again.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

TEN out of ten for sheer timing

SOMETIMES sheer accidents of timing do work out. Take the case of TEN, the television company that produces the monthly video-training package, *The Accountants' Channel*. Today sees publication of a polemic from Ernst & Young by its technical partner, Ron Paterson, seeking to rubbish the recent statement of principles issued by the Accounting Standards Board, chaired by Sir David Tweedie. And what should be on TEN's latest video — a furious debate on the subject between Tweedie and Paterson.

Prickly dispute

Scottish accountants who know Paterson and Tweedie well will be relieved that they are arguing over accounting matters. Normally it is the relative footballing merits, if any, of Partick Thistle and Falkirk.

DTI in retreat

The Department of Trade and Industry was savaged by just about everybody in the accountancy profession last week after the publication of the "Feasibility Investigation of Joint and Several Liability", particularly its negative approach to the possibility of allowing proportional liability. No surprise therefore to find the press office distancing itself: "It doesn't reflect our views. It's only a consultative document," seemed to be the line. Beleagured accountants can probably breathe again.

Reed rescue

Sir George Vallings was chief executive of Cima until last June. Then he devoted his efforts to proposals to merge Cima with the English ICA, which were abandoned last week. So it was good news for him the day the merger was pulled that he was appointed non-executive chairman of Reed Accountancy, the recruitment agency.

ROBERT BRUCE



■ THEATRE

Whatever kind of show it may be, the new *Gulp Fiction* is undeniably good fun for the audience



■ OPERA

English Touring Opera's latest annual tour gets off to a shaky start with a routine version of *Rigoletto*

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC

Lorin Maazel enjoys himself as the Pittsburgh Symphony brings its 100th birthday tour to London



■ TOMORROW

Now that she's selling more records, everyone wants to work with — and talk to — Celine Dion

THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** on a plotless, pointless, joyously goofy spoof

Reservoir cats are just a hoot

Gulp Fiction
Theatre Royal, Stratford East

This cheerful, bumbling, uncategorisable show begins with two men with convict arrows on their white tunics emerging from what we are told is Pentonville prison. They are twins; one is called Reggie and one Ronnie; they have been serving a longish stretch for bank robbery. But there the resemblances to the East End's most celebrated twosome end. For no evident reason, these brothers' surname is Diss. They are also black and as droll as you might have predicted, given that both are veterans of that excellent revue troupe, the Posse.

Though Trish Cooke, the author and director, has called her two-hander *Gulp Fiction*, the connection with Quentin Tarantino is even more precarious. It consists of nothing more than giving Robbie Gee's Reggie and Eddie Nestor's Ronnie the rather sinister dark suits that the hoods wear in *Reservoir Dogs*. No ears are cut off, no abdomens shot to smithereens. These villains' idea of violence is mainly to take the pins out of rude jokes and lob them at each other with great chortles of pleasure.

"Your face has so many bumps, a blind man could read it." "You're so stupid, you think black consciousness is a group that stays awake all night." "You're so ugly that if I took you to a pet shop, they'd put you in the window." The standard of humour is not too high, nor meant to be, for the Diss twins are a goofy, infantile duo. Only one thing, they say, really riles them. That is frustration in romance. Only one thing could divide them. That is if one were to steal the other's woman.

This duly occurs, giving the evening such vestigial shape and plot as it possesses. At any rate, Ron is asked for a date by Reg's seductive girlfriend. But this leads to nothing worse than transitory ructions in the last reel. The main object is to allow Gee to dress up first in a black mini-skirt, then in a slinky blue dress, and do a wiggling, mincing impersonation of a huffy broad. Indeed, you might say that the real object of the evening is to allow both men to launch into as many good-humoured spoofs as time for quick changes of costume permits.

Nestor gives us the Diss mother, a comfy soul whose living room is as pink and garish as the dress she wears when she goes out on the razzle. Gee ripostes with her over-age lover, an army chef who clanks around in medals looking like a Jamaican Monty. When the action switches from a grotty housing estate to a mock-Tudor pub called the Duck and Dive, both performers reappear in gold lamé purple lapels and silver-ginger toupees, playing a couple of inept singers called Stratford and Avon.

With Felix Cross banging away on the synthesizers and plenty of ebullient give-and-take with the audience, this is undeniably good fun. There may be no logical reason for Gee and Nestor to do anything they do, but that does not seem to matter at the time. Both are gifted comedians who could simply stand on their heads and pull funny faces for half an hour, and the laughter would probably keep coming.

Is it grudging to wish that: a) their material was bolder and more inventive, and b) that it was less dependent on Afro-Caribbean references? Probably. The show is aimed not at white critics driving in from west London, but at people who really know their Jamaica from their Trinidad. The reaction on the first night made it clear that the cast's rapport with its target audience is spot-on.

TRISTRAM KENTON



Guys and drolls: Robbie Gee and Eddie Nestor play the gangsters armed with gags

Set on the wrong course from the start

OPERA

Rigoletto/ Werther
Sadler's Wells

ENGLISH Touring Opera's seventeenth annual tour got off to a shaky start on Tuesday at Sadler's Wells. **Rigoletto** may be one of the most familiar and popular works in the repertory, but in a good performance its bleakness should still shock, the boldness of Verdi's assault on convention still thrill. ETO's new version rarely rises above the routine.

Stephen Medcalf, the company's director of productions, can usually be relied on to make efficient, unfussy use of whatever resources are to hand. Here, however, his efforts are hampered by Charles Edwards's ugly, inflexible set, a clutter of crumbling masonry and peeling walls, in the midst of which perches that dreariest of pseudo-Expressionist clichés: a windowless, wonky boxroom. It looks as though a furniture van has crashed backwards onto the stage and lost a wheel; and it cramps and constrains the singers.

In the circumstances, it was hardly surprising if the cast did less than justice to some of opera's most complex, ambivalent characters. Glenville Hargreaves's intense Rigoletto was unfocused in his anguish, while Jeffrey Stewart was a virile but undisciplined Duke. Only Gail Pearson's radiant, clear-toned Gilda quickened the pulse.

Martin André in the pit struggled to supply the dramatic shape that the staging lacked. Reduced orchestral forces (26 players in all) meant that tragic grandeur was never an option; but compensating gains in clarity and intimacy seemed few and far between.

On Wednesday, before a smaller audience, Massenet's **Werther** fared better. Andrew Greenwood's reading of the (reorchestrated) score was clearly defined and nicely paced, the ebb and flow of passion and remorse well caught.

Robert Chevara's stark production, first seen last October, could do more to characterise the ordered social background to the protagonists' emotional turmoil — and Lucy Hall's rather spartan designs do little to help. But the sense of dramatic purpose is always strong, the English translation (by Amanda Holden, who also translated *Rigoletto*) is heard to good effect, and at least the singers have room to move.

Geraint Dodd and Christine Botes were a vivid pair of guilty lovers: she a darkly passionate, earthy Charlotte; he combining ardour with grace in the daunting, high-lying title role. Roderick Williams's Albert was finely nuanced and firmly sung. Matthew Hargreaves (a dignified Magistrate) and Maureen Braithwaite (a bright, appealing Sophie) stood out in an impressively solid supporting cast.

IAN BRUNSKILL

DONALD COOPER



Complex characters: Gail Pearson as Gilda, Glenville Hargreaves as Rigoletto, in Stephen Medcalf's staging

Royal National Theatre

The Ends of the Earth

a new play by David Lan



Presented in association with AT&T: OnStage

In a country in crisis it is inadvisable to have one of your own...

Samantha Bond and **Michael Sheen** lead the cast of David Lan's new play, directed by Andrei Serban.

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"...visually dazzling epic...
...the outstanding performance is by Sharon Stone"
Barry Norman BBC

"...De Niro's finest hour..."
Empire Magazine

"...compulsive viewing,
with Stone matching De Niro stride for stride."
Cosmopolitan

Robert DE NIRO
Sharon STONE
Joe PESCI



STARTS TODAY
AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Over-familiarity breeds confusion

CONCERT

Pittsburgh SO/Maazel
Festival Hall

ORCHESTRAL tours can be a mixed blessing. On the one hand, the players have the opportunity to familiarise themselves intimately with the selected works and give confident, well-rehearsed performances. On the other hand, by the fag-end of the tour, the pieces are never as fresh as they once were, for either players or conductor.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's centennial European tour reached its climax at the Festival Hall on Wednesday night, with its outgoing music director Lorin Maazel putting the ensemble once again through its paces in Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra* and accompanying the young Lithuanian-born player, Julian Rachlin, in Sibelius's Violin Concerto in D minor.

Repeated performances seem to have taken their toll on Rachlin. He plays with as much technical assurance as ever, and his account is by no means lacking in character or motivation. But his attempts to inject spontaneity now lead him to pull about the rhythms of his unaccompanied solos in the most un-Sibelian way. He is undoubtedly a highly talented player — he brings a wide variety of tonal expression to the central Adagio and effortless virtuosity to the finale — but now the tour is over, he would do well to overhaul his reading of the concerto with a view to separating introspection from affectation.

The Festival Hall is no Heinz Hall — the luxuriously refurbished auditorium the Pittsburghers have at home — and it may have been that they were still getting their bearings in Sibelius's *Finlandia*. At any rate it sounded unconvincingly crude and banal.

By the end of the concert, however, they were fully in their stride and gave a virtuoso performance of Bartók's orchestral showpiece. If once in a while there was a feeling of an interpretation going through the motions, things looked up dramatically in the "Intermezzo Interrotto", where the cantabile melody introduced by the violas had an ideally intuitive feel. The Presto finale was launched in style and the concerto brought to a rousing conclusion.

BARRY MILLINGTON

LOU REED



SET THE TWILIGHT REELING
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■ CHOICE 1

Samantha Bond stars in the new play *The Ends of the Earth*

VENUE: Tonight at the National Theatre



■ CHOICE 2

Tori Amos, with two big albums under her belt, launches her tour

VENUE: Tonight at the Regent, Ipswich

THE TIMES POP ARTS



■ POP 1

What you didn't see on TV: Caitlin Moran goes behind the scenes at this week's Brit Awards



■ POP 2

Exploring the links between literature and music in the unlikely setting of a London pub

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

TOSCA Keith Warner's beautifully costumed, almost cinematic production returns to English National Opera tonight, with Janice Cairns taking the title role in Puccini's thriller of love, lust and politics. The splendid David Rendall once again sings Cavaradossi. Philip Jolley, Scarpia and Anwel Huw Morgan is Sacristan. Alex Ingram conducts. **Coliseum** St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300) Tonight 7.30pm

THE ENDS OF THE EARTH First night of previews for Samantha Bond and Michael Sheen in a new David Lan play, set in the Balkans where a geologist, to save his ill daughter, must make an impossible sacrifice to give up smoking. Andrei Serban directs. **National** (Cottesloe) South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-28, 7.30pm opens Feb 29 7pm. In rep

GYORGY KURTAG AT 70 The London Sinfonietta celebrates the famed Hungarian composer and pianist as he joins them for a weekend of concerts, workshops and recitals. Tonight's programmes feature soprano Valdine Anderson and Thomas Adès and Gyorgy and Marta Kurtág at the piano. **South Bank**, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Tonight, 6.30 and 8pm. Tomorrow, 4pm 5.15, 6.30 and 9.30pm (not Purcell Room)

ELSEWHERE

DERBY Opening night for a new adaptation of **Tess of the D'Urbervilles** by Colin Mayes and director Mark Clements. The Playhouse continues its Thomas Hardy theme, with Tara Woodward as the heroine facing betrayal by an encroaching modern world. **Playhouse**, Eagle Centre (01332-363 275) Tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm. Until Mar 16

EDINBURGH Seven galleries play host to **British Art Show 4**, a once every five year salute to contemporary British artists from the South bank national touring exhibitions. More than 100 works from 36 artists are on view from tomorrow, including Damien Hirst's sheep in a formaldehyde tank. Participating galleries: City Art Centre, Collective Gallery, Fruitmarket Gallery, Royal Botanic Gardens, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Stills Gallery and Talbot Rice Gallery. **Information** (0131-220 6585)

IPSWICH **Tori Amos** launches her British tour tonight, showing off the quirky singer-songwriter, piano-playing talents behind her two mega-hit albums. **Regent**, St Helen's Street (01473 281480) Sat, **Sheffield**, City Hall (0114 2722885), Sun, **Manchester**, Apollo (0161-242 2560) On tour until Mar 13

SHEFFIELD The excellent David Glass Ensemble begin their tour of **La Dolce Vita**, a stage version with music of the celebrated Fellini film. Next dates: Ipswich, Worthing, Birmingham, and Lyric, Hammersmith. **Crucible**, Norfolk Street (0114-276 9922) Previews tonight-Mon, 7.30pm Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Mar 9, 2.30pm. Until Mar 9

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes (0171-638 4141) **Hayward** Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144) **Matthiesen Gallery** Leighton and his Sculptural Legacy: 1875-1930 (0171-930 4215) **National Gallery** Old Master paintings from Rome's Doria Pamphilj Gallery (0171-747 2885) **National Portrait Gallery** The Room in View (0171-306 0055) **Royal Academy** Frederic Leighton (0171-439 7438) **Tate** Cezanne (0171-887 8000) **V & A** The Leighton Frescoes, Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **1953** Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz play the lead roles in Craig Raine's version of Racine's *Andromache* updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. Patrick Marber directs. **Almeida**, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm

◪ **CHAPTER TWO** Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's still entertaining, touching comedy. **Gielgud**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm

◪ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE.** Sam Mendes's radiant production. Zoë Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter, Ben Walden is Tom. **Comedy**, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sat, 3pm

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS.** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. **Garrick**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

☐ **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT** Philip Schofield plays the lad with the pretty jacket in a nine-week revival of the first Lloyd Webber/Rice creation. **Labatt's Apollo**, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-416 6082) Now previewing, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Feb 27

◪ **THE MISANTHROPE** Ken Scott and Elizabeth McGovern in an updated version of Molière, too updated for the play's real good but vigorously acted. **Young Vic**, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **PRESENT LAUGHTER** Peter Bowles is Gary Essendine in Noel Coward's exaggerated self-portrait of a star pursued by devotees and love-hating every minute of it. Richard Olivier directs. Caroline Langrishe and Deborah Grant co-star. **Aldwych**, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171-379 3367) Now previewing, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Opens Feb 27, 7pm

☐ **SKYLIGHT** Michael Gambon and Lia Williams, with Daniel Betts, in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. Richard Eyre directs this National theatre transfer. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat 3pm

◪ **TOMMY:** Pete Townshend's famous musical stars the 19-year-old hitherto unknown Paul Keating as the deaf, dumb, blind pinball wizard, with Ian Wilde as his mum. Des McAnuff, co-writer of the book, directs. **Shaftesbury**, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Now previewing, 8pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Opens Mar 5, 7pm

◪ **TWELFTH NIGHT** Ian Judge's attractive production, interestingly recast, with Edward Fetherbridge as Malvolio. Final performances. **Barbican** Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Tue, 7.15pm, mats Sat and Tue, 2pm

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Buddy** Strand (0171-930 8800) ☐ **Dead Guilty** Apollo (0171-494 5070) ◪ **Jolson** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ◪ **Mack and Mabel** Piccadilly (0171-369 1734) ☐ **The Mousetrap** St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ◪ **The Shakespeare Revue** Vaudeville (0171-836 9987) ◪ **Starlight Express** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) ☐ **The Woman in Black** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

◆ **CASINO** (18) Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s: glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** ◪ (0171-437 1234) **MGM Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (U) Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director: Ang Lee. **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3566)

◆ **TRAINSPOTTING** (18) Abrasive look at junkie life, from Irvine Welsh's novel, made by the *Shallow Grave* team. With Ewan McGregor and Ewen Bremner. Director: Danny Boyle. **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043) **MGM Fulham Rd** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6748) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914036) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

CURRENT

BED OF ROSES (PG) Wilting, whimsical romance set in a fairy-tale New York, with Mary Stuart Masterson and Christian Slater. Director, Michael Goldenberg. **Plaza** ◪ (0171-437 1234)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG) Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams. Director, Joe Johnston. **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18) Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elizabeth Shue. **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **A LITTLE PRINCESS** (U) Marvellous rendering of the children's classic, with Liesel Matthews as the boarding school girl plunged from riches to rags. Director, Alfonso Cuarón. **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

OTHELLO (12) Laurence Fishburne as the jealous Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago. Lively version for general audiences. Director, Oliver Parker. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Richmond** (0181-332 0090) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

IL POSTINO (U) Michael Radford's heartwarming delight about a simple man opening his eyes to poetry. Wonderful performance by the late Massimo Troisi. **MGMs: Panton Street** (0171-930 0631) **Swiss** (0171-439 4470) **NFT** Sunday (0171-928 3232) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Watermans** (0181-569 1176)

◆ **SABRINA** (PG) Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Sydney Pollack directs. **Empire** (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031)

ULYSSES' GAZE (PG) Portentous epic with striking moments from Greek master Theo Angelopoulos' with Harvey Keitel as a film-maker journeying through the Balkans. **Lumière** (0171-836 0691) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

In with the old, out with the true. How the Brit Awards were turned into a TV farce

A word from our censor

MARTIN BEDDALL



Sickening: the "king of pop" made the bile rise in our throats with his unspeakable suffer-little-children act

Clean, lucid and friendly at all times. This seems to be the edict under which pop stars' behaviour is allowed. Having opinions, starting fights, protesting against social injustice and the selective rewriting of history are all quickly edited out, in favour of Alanis Morissette acting out "Janis Joplin's Nursery Years" and David Bowie reminding us just how long it's been since we wanted to do anything other than drown him.

To recap what *really* went on at the Brits this year: Oasis are snide and cruel to Blur, Liam Gallagher rolls around on the floor like the larruped gibbon that he is, attempts to shove his award up his behind and starts a play-fight with Michael Hutchence by calling him a "has-been".

Massive Attack comment on the building of Bristol's wealth on the slave trade, Jarvis Cocker attempts to moon what there is of his skinny arse at the "King of Pop" Michael Jackson, and every second is edited out in favour of dull live clips and fascinating crowd shots of red-faced men in suits hee-hawing at Lenny Kravitz's trousers.

It is bizarre. Millions of pounds were thrown at *The Word* in an effort to have something, *anything* spontaneously exciting happen yet, when things *do* kick off on television, every last morsel is edited out.

There seems to be an air of bemusement as to why *The Brits* were neutered. Even Richard and Judy on *This Morning* expressed puzzlement at the censoring on television of events which were recounted at length in the next morning's newspapers, complete with pictures. And when daytime TV's fluffy couple are dismayed at not seeing the full events, surely all of Middle England follows suit.

The measure of health in a democracy can be calculated by the freedom it gives its artists — and when it gets to the point where their *sarcasm* is edited, there is great cause for concern. Of course, the bigwigs gave free rein to those pop stars spouting the really offensive stuff — Michael Jackson's seven minutes of prime-time advertising, for example, with its utterly distasteful wheeling on of small drama-school children muddied up to look like bombed Bosnian orphans, among whom he struck a Jesus pose and simpered as they clutched his toast-rack chest. Overblown whoring such as this needs brutal editing — a simple still of Jackson in 1982, when he still looked like a human, would have sufficed. It was nothing short of a miracle that the entire audience didn't storm the stage to protest at such a nauseating spectacle. That it was left to Cocker to point out that the King of Pop was clad in the Emperor's New Clothes is a sad indictment. What he said — "The music industry allows [Jackson] to indulge his fantasies because of his wealth and power" — is all too true.



CAITLIN MORAN

Since all the stuff that made headlines the next day was edited from the TV show, it raises the question of why the Brits were televised in the first place. It is like showing edited highlights of Saturday's football without the goals.

There can be only two reasons for this: stupidity or censorship. And as the executive producer of *The Brits* is Malcolm Gerrie, former producer of scandal-ridden *The Tube* and one of the brightest figures in music television, we can only conclude that pointless censorship is at work — the same kind of ineffective, random censorship that led to Radio 1 banning The Bangles' *Walk Like An Egyptian* and The Boomtown Rats' *I Don't Like Mondays* during the Gulf War. So where did this edict come from? Not from the network — Carlton's press officer seems vaguely harassed and completely uninterested in the whole affair, citing "time" as the criterion for the edits made. This is frankly laughable — there was time enough for lingering shots of Paul Young smoking a cigarette, plus numerous dull live clips of Oasis — and when this was pointed out to him, he went on to mention "taste". Well, a possible explanation for editing out Liam's bleary triumphalism, but surely no excuse for removing Massive Attack's statements on slavery.

Next up is Initial Television, the production company, where things move into focus. Their press officer is keen to talk but, apparently, has been ordered not to. She conveys the impression that she also thought the cuts were unnecessary and points the finger at sponsors the BPI, who remain resolutely unavailable for comment.

So it is the industry censoring its own that seems to be the problem — something far more outrageous than a lanky pop star from Sheffield trying to expose the idiocy of the whole affair.

Who wants some Pulp with their fiction?

Ann Scanlon on the London pub offering a marriage between book readings and *Desert Island Discs*

On Sunday, Patrick McCabe, author of the Booker-nominated black comedy *The Butcher Boy*, will get up in a north London pub and start to read out loud. Every now and then he will stop, and one of his favourite songs will be played. And thus will *Vox'n'Roll* be born.

It was devised by Gerry O'Boyle, owner of Filthy MacNasty's Whiskey Café, and the rock promoter Richard Thomas. "The idea is to bring literature back to the bar room," O'Boyle says. "Throughout history literature has come from the bar, and many great writers have spent a lot of their time in bars."

McCabe says that he finds inspiration in "the ambience of pubs — not necessarily in beer-sodden drink culture itself, but in the company of people in an unrarefied atmosphere."

James Hawes, who will be Filthy's guest on the second Sunday, is such a fan of the place that he used it as a setting for a couple of the central scenes in *A White Merc with Fins*, which recently earned him the biggest-ever advance for a first-time novelist. "Some people have said that my book really felt like it had the smell of the pub about it, which is exactly what I wanted," he says. "I think it's really important that there shouldn't be any divide between what people see as literature, in inverted commas, and what people see as entertainment."

Filthy's already has a resident rock'n'roll bard — Shane MacGowan (once of the Pogues, now the Popes), who has been using it as his own personal living room since it first opened three years ago — and *Vox'n'Roll*'s line-up of readers is similarly renegade. After McCabe and Hawes, Iain Sinclair and James Kelman will appear, as will cannabis smuggler Howard Marks and Edward Bunker, a crime writer who achieved wider fame as Mr Blue in *Reservoir Dogs*.

— Irvine Welsh, author of *Trainspotting*, the book that spawned what must be the rock'n'roll film of the year, has repeatedly said that he came to literature through music. He is interested in "Lou Reed or Iggy Pop, Shane MacGowan or Nick Cave, people who can actually do something that is relevant to the culture they're writing about".

Following football and comedy, could literature become the rock'n'roll of the next millennium?

● *Patrick McCabe at Filthy MacNasty's Whiskey Café, 68 Amwell Street, London EC1 (0171-837 6067), 9pm on Sunday*

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مكتبة الأسد



■ POP 3

Alanis Morissette doesn't need dancing girls or supplicant children. She has plenty of talent to rely on



■ POP 4

An embarrassment of riches on a terrific new album by Joan Osborne, the woman who's got it all

THE TIMES POP ARTS



■ POP 5

A valiant effort from Iggy Pop on his latest, *Naughty Little Doggie*, but it's strictly one for the diehards



■ POP 6

Marc Almond makes his comeback with *Fantastic Star*, an album of grandeur and scope

Flashing the peace-sign

David Sinclair is pleased to report that Alanis Morissette is no jagged little pill



Alanis Morissette is the international newcomer of the year, and she has the Brit to prove it

Amid all the rumpus of the Brit Awards last Monday, one performance stood out for its simple, heartfelt conviction. Alanis Morissette, the winner of the trophy for Best International Newcomer, sang *Hand in my Pocket* without the aid of dancing girls, supplicant children or aerial hoists. Her energetic performance was all the more impressive for that lack of pretension and, while Morissette says she harbours "mixed emotions" about receiving awards, she nevertheless relished the opportunity to play in front of the powerbrokers of the British music business.

"I love playing for audiences that have never heard of me. There's a certain satisfaction that I get from communicating with people for the first time," she says. On the face of it, this might seem a little ingenuous. Eight months after its release, her album, *Jagged Little Pill*, remains in the Top Five. In America, where she has been nominated for six Grammies, the album has sold five million copies and this week went back to No 1. Few people who take even a passing interest in this kind of thing can be unaware of who she is.

Still, the 21-year-old Canadian singer-songwriter is one of the freshest faces to join the top table of pop. Predictably, she has been allocated a niche alongside various other feisty female performers, a link, perhaps, between the sometimes abusive assertiveness of Liz Phair and the soft-rock narrative style of Sheryl Crow.

One song in particular has led to a rash of "angry young woman" headlines. *You Oughta Know* is an elegantly turned essay in uncontained rage — "Every time I scratch my nails down someone else's back/I hope you feel it ... can you feel it?" — and initially had the music press referring to her "barbed and spiteful brand of pop".

The reality is not so clear cut. For a start, there are just as many gentle and philosophical songs on *Jagged Little Pill*, such as the current single, *You Learn*, and the wildly optimistic *Head Over Feet*. And, in person, she is the voice of sweet reason itself.

As with all her songs, *You Oughta Know* stems from personal experience. It was addressed to a real person. "One day I got off the phone from talking to him and just wrote down exactly what I felt," she says. "But I wrote it for the sake of my own release, not as a way of getting revenge on him. Actually, he's a sweetheart. And secretly, now, I thank him for ending the relationship because it forced me to grow up, to take responsibility for myself and not put my self-esteem in other people's hands any more. You can't win that way."

Growing up is a process Morissette has accomplished quicker than most. Born in Ottawa, she went into showbusiness at the age of ten, landing a part in a children's series on cable TV. The money she made financed her first single, and at 14 she signed a publishing contract which, after a self-financed debut album, led to the release in Canada on the major-league label MCA of *Alanis* (1991) and *Now is the Time* (1992).

The daughter of two teachers, Morissette describes herself as "always an over-achiever". Even while she was undertaking all this acting, writing and recording, she still managed to get A grades at school. At the age of 17 she left home and moved to Toronto. Then, at 19, she took herself off to Los Angeles, where she hooked up with Glen Ballard, who co-wrote *Man in the Mirror* with Michael Jackson. He and Morissette wrote and recorded virtually the whole of *Jagged Little Pill* on a shoestring budget — a creative process which she describes as "very pure, very fast, an almost mystical experience" — before securing a contract with Maverick, the label owned by Madonna.

"She's offered to give me advice, but I haven't taken her up on it," Morissette says. "I want to make my own mistakes and enjoy my own triumphs." She professes to be unaware that *Jagged Little Pill* has outsold Madonna's current album, *Something to Remember*, five to one.

Like Madonna, Morissette

> "I was always an over-achiever"

was brought up in the Catholic faith, which she has since renounced. She sings of the experience with typical candour in *Forgiven*: "We all had delusions in our head/We all had our minds made up for us/We had to believe in something/So we did."

She has no time for drugs — "for a control freak, the idea of being so out of control is too frightening" — but has instead become very tuned in to the Californian culture of self-examination. "My religion for a long time became psychological awareness. My Bible was a book on psychology. I used to do a lot of therapy. It became like a drug to me, but the benefits have been invaluable, both to my state of mind and to my ability to write songs that are a genuine expression of my emotions."

And, like any reasonably rounded individual, those emotions comprise more than just anger. But there is still a lot of it about. "My parents were offered five jobs right out of university," she says. "Now you can have several degrees and not get any job.

"And there's a reason why there's a lot of anger in music made by people my age. There's a whole movement towards the truth and, of course, there's going to be anger and frustration and feeling compelled to lash out. Obviously, you have to take responsibility for certain mistakes that you make, but we're only human."

NEW RELEASES: Joan Osborne scores on British debut

A Pelé of the blues

JOAN OSBORNE
Relish
(Blue Gorilla/
Mercury 526 699)
WITH a voice like honey and lemon, and songs that mix modern rock with elements of blues, soul and hillbilly gospel, Joan Osborne has got it all. The success of her debut British single, *One of Us*, has paved the way for an album that is astonishingly rich in musical detail, spiritual imagery and raw feel.

Naturally, the 33-year-old singer from Kentucky has honed her music over many years, since starting in the blues bars of New York. And much credit is also due to a supporting cast of seasoned songwriting collaborators, including guitarist Eric Bazilian and keyboard player Rob Hyman of the Hooters, plus her producer Rick Chertoff.

But the key to Osborne's appeal lies in her instinctive ability to impose a strong sense of tradition on words and music that have an instant popular appeal. Her unusual, yodelling-like intonation at the beginning of *Pensacola* is descended from the Appalachian style of country-gospel singing. And, at her bluesiest, as on the slow, dirty chug of *Dracula Moon* or her lightly sketched version of the Sonny Boy Williamson standard *Help Me*, she sounds like Janis Joplin without the whisky bottle.

Two songs in particular stand out from an embarrassment of riches. *Spider Web* tells of a dream in which Ray Charles regains his sight, only to find that his wonderful singing voice has deserted him: "No Georgia on my mind no more/I stay in bed with MTV". Constructed from an astonishing lattice-work of percussion and funk guitar rhythms, it is a song that interweaves complex layers of music and meaning, yet produces an immediate effect.

In a very different vein, the next single, *Right Hand Man*, is a glorious, skipped-beat stomp pushed along by shimmering guitar chords, a howling sax solo and the swaggering pay-off line: "Use me up if you think you can."

IGGY POP
Naughty Little Doggie
(Virgin Records
America CDVUS 102)
ONE of rock's last great characters, Iggy Pop is always fun to have around, but offers uncertain value as a record purchase. Writing, as ever, from an unrepentantly personal perspective, the 48-year-old Pop has two main, possibly interlinked, themes.

One is the effect of his advancing years — "I see my future shuffling/A shaky step at a time" — the other his increasingly indiscriminate lust for practically anything in a skirt.

Not the world's most convincing singer, he tends to sketch in the melodies on generic garageband rockers such as *Innocent World* and *Heart is Saved*, as if joining up the dots with a rather uncertain hand. A valiant effort, no doubt, but this is not an album whose appeal is likely to stretch much beyond Pop's diehard fans.

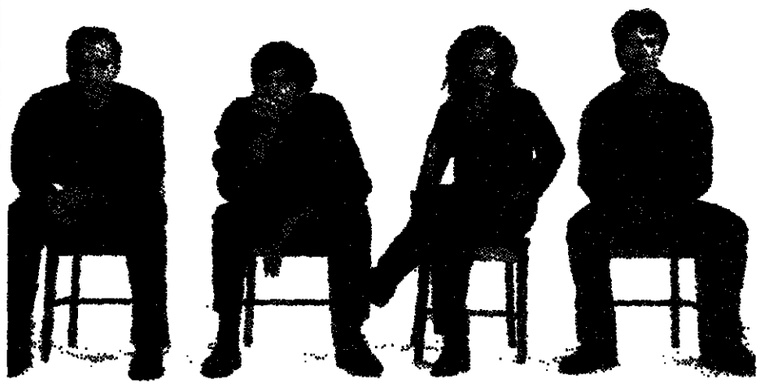
MARC ALMOND
Fantastic Star
(Some Bizarre/
Mercury 528 659)
EMERGING from a period of personal upheaval, Marc Almond opens his account with his new record company with an album of impressive grandeur and epic scope.

He describes the collection as "a search for glamour and love through obsession, addiction, betrayal and stardom", and these elements are much in evidence on tracks such as *Caged*, *We Need Jealousy* and *Brilliant Creatures*, which marry his fey synth-pop roots with grittier touches of rock'n'roll sleaze.

At the core of the album is a spellbinding song called *The Idol (Parts 1 & 2)*. Written in a pastiche of the style of Gary Glitter, it is a long and thoughtful dissertation on the strange role that tragedy plays in contributing to the romantic lure of pop icons.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Cowboy Junkies
Lay it down
The Brand New Album
Released 26th February
CD and Cassette
'Their starkest, most vital album since 1988's The Trinity Session'
Q Magazine



TOP TEN ALBUMS

1 (What's the Story) Morning Glory? ..... Oasis (Creation)
2 Expecting to Fly ..... Bluetones (Superior Quality)
3 Bizarre Fruit I & II ..... M People (Deconstruction)
4 Jagged Little Pill ..... Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
5 Don't Stop ..... Status Quo (Polygram TV)
6 The Bends ..... Radiohead (Parlophone)
7 Different Class ..... Pulp (Island)
8 Stanley Road ..... Paul Weller (Go! Discs)
9 Definitely Maybe ..... Oasis (Creation)
10 Life ..... Simply Red (East West)

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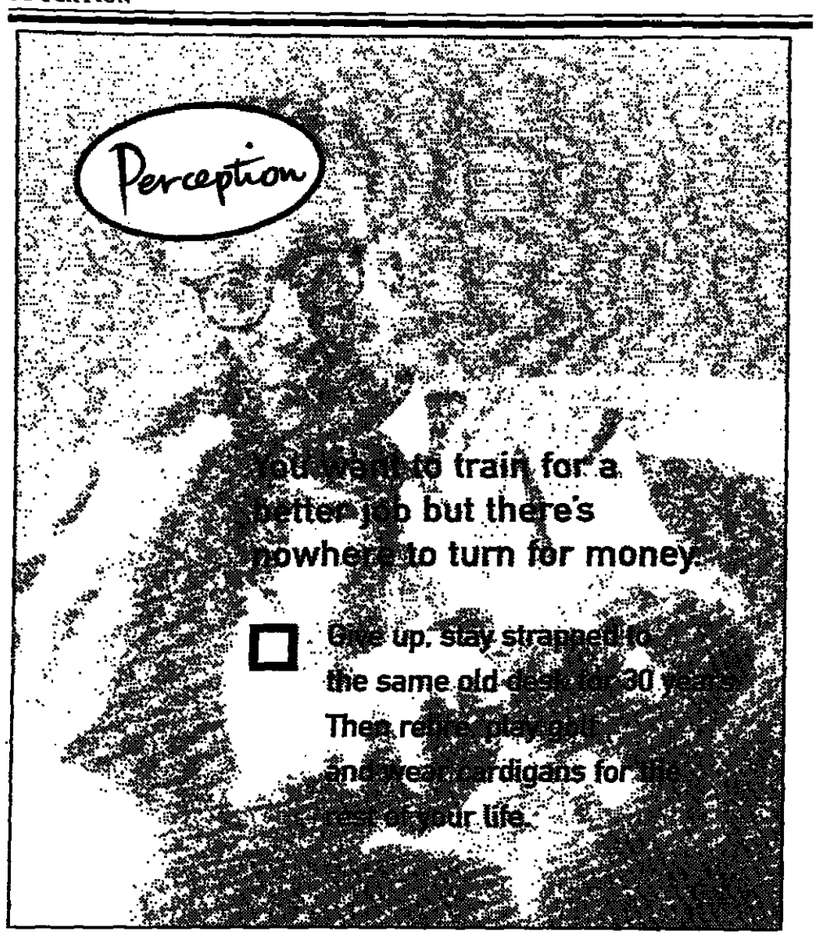






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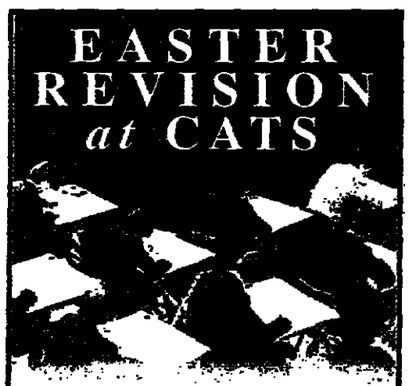
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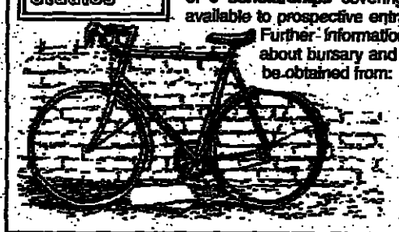
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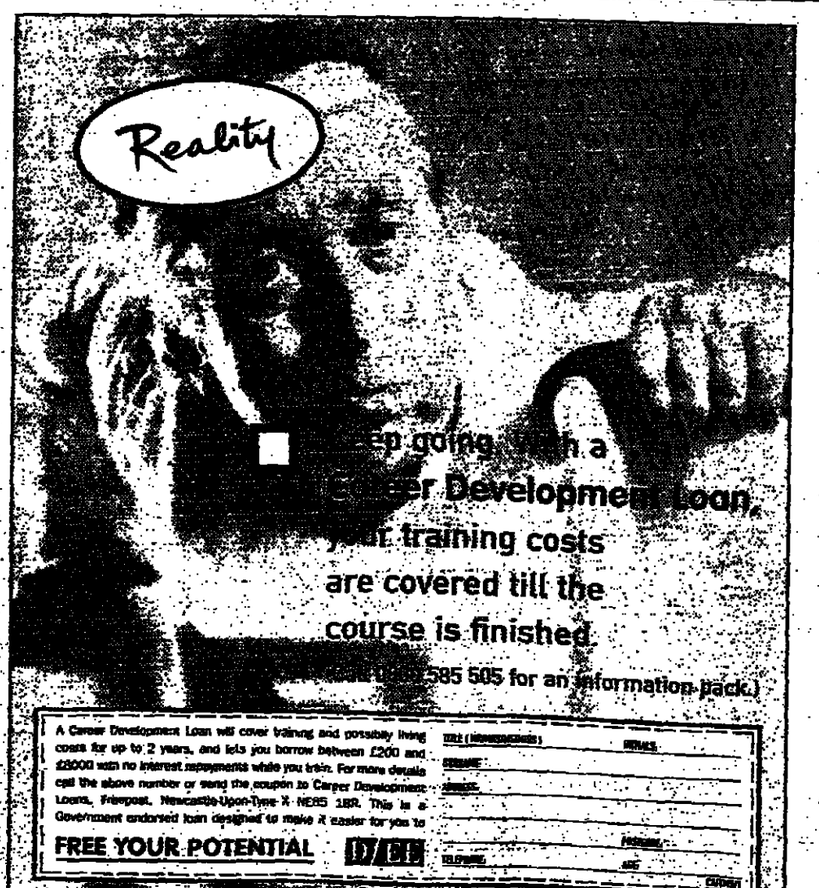
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EDUCATION CONTINUES ON PAGE 34

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■ DESIGN

The memory of architect James Stirling is honoured in a new £20,000 prize for the profession



■ MUSIC 1

In this month of quartets, the Takács take the crown of glory with their Schubert cycle at the Wigmore Hall

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC 2

An enjoyable mix of Ravel, Berlioz and Sibelius, from Sir Simon Rattle and the CBSO

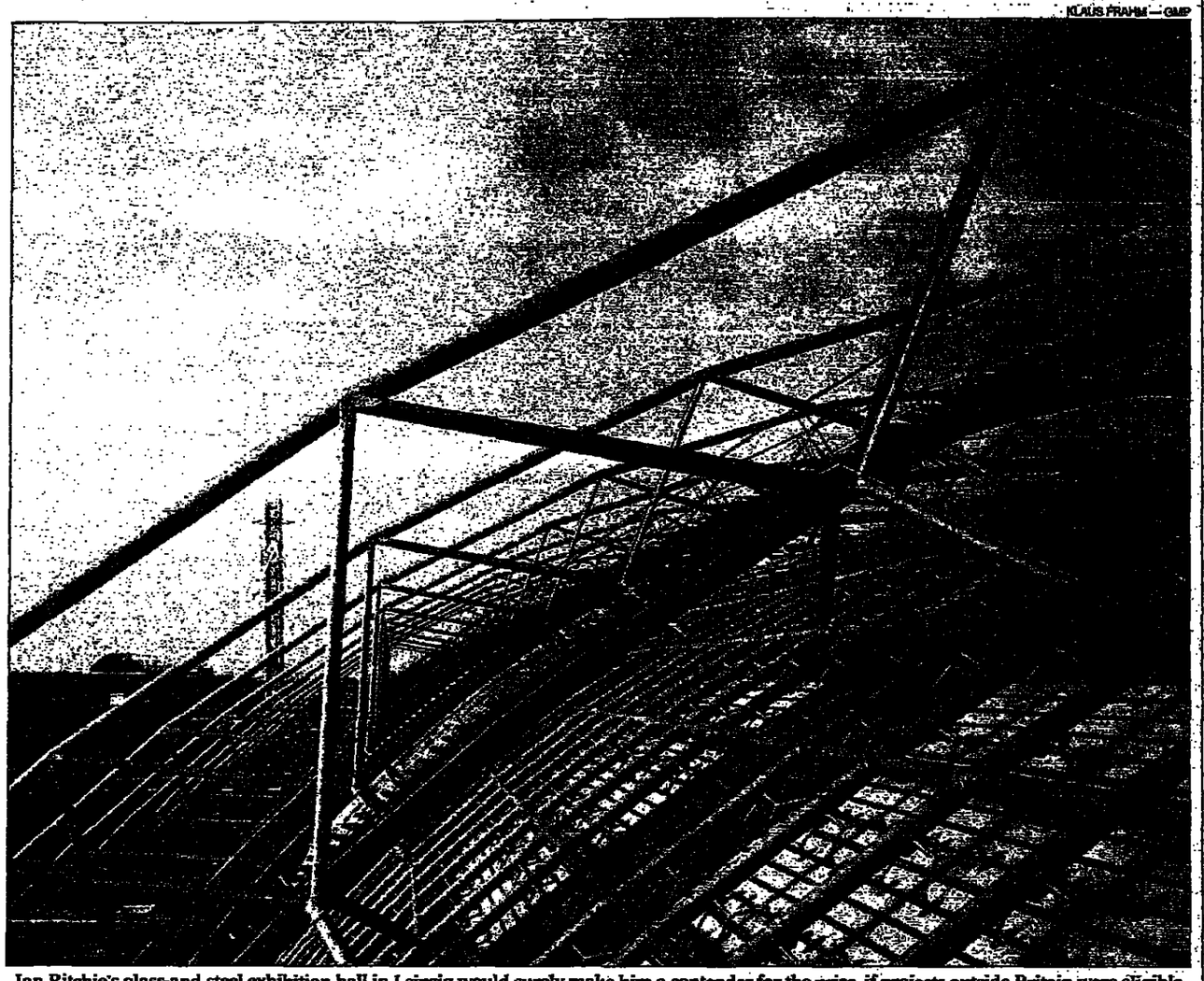


■ RADIO

Astronomers on the air waves? It's the type of programme Radio 4 does particularly well these days

Architecture has a new award, but will it stir up as much interest as the Turner or Booker? **Marcus Binney** reports

And may the best building win . .



KLAUS FRAHM — GMP

Ian Ritchie's glass-and-steel exhibition hall in Leipzig would surely make him a contender for the prize, if projects outside Britain were eligible

Architects are to have their own version of the Turner Prize. Big money, massive hype and — it is hoped — a deluge of press coverage leading up to the announcement.

The name is good: the Stirling Prize. It has the ring of sound money in your pocket and honours big Jim Stirling, whose star, at his sudden death, stood higher on the international scene than that of even Norman Foster or Richard Rogers. Not so at home perhaps, where his controversial History Library at Cambridge came close to demolition and his experimental housing in Runcorn was bulldozed to the cheers of locals.

> 'The appeal of the Stirling Prize is that it is for a single project'

But can architecture generate the kind of controversy that fuels the literary world's Booker Prize or the art world's Turner? To achieve this, you would need a shortlist consisting of Nigel Coates, Terry Farrell, Roderick Gradidge, Zaha Hadid, John Outram and Quinlan Terry. Then the British architectural scene would erupt. Lady Stirling, for one, would have strong views on Quinlan Terry ("Not those villas in Regent's Park") and the artful Hadid may still not have a completed building on British soil.

You could say that in recent years British architecture has had more awards than there is space to report: the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Awards, the Royal Fine Art Commission/*Sunday Times* Building of the Year, the Financial Times Award and the Civic Trust Awards. On the international scene architecture has bigger prizes still: the $100,000 American Pritzker Prize, the $250,000 Carlsberg and the Mies van der Rohe Pavilion Award. All these are for "lifetime achievement", although the recipient may be quite young. The appeal of the Stirling Prize is that it is for a single project.

The £20,000 Stirling Prize money may be similar to the Booker and Turner, but the opportunity for tension and drama at present is substantially less. The shortlist will not be chosen from a list of shooting stars, but from seven worthies — the best housing or houses, commercial, health, education, sport and community buildings, as well as the best conservation project — although these are unlikely to win unless there is a substantial element of new work. Laurels are naturally given to the big names, but the RIBA selectors are also good at spotting high-quality work by small practices around the country.

The Stirling award results from *The Sunday Times* switching allegiance from the Royal Fine Art Commission to RIBA. A back-of-the envelope calculation showed the switch meant that the sponsorship money could go as a single handsome prize to the architect, rather than being swallowed up in travel expenses, dinners and the like (and there is no need for the Fine Art Commission to despair, as BSkyB has stepped in to fill the gap left by *The Sunday Times*).

The beauty of it is that RIBA does an extensive countrywide trawl for potential candidates through its regional awards. The judges of the new Stirling Prize will be presented with a well-researched shortlist at no cost. And the judges have the right to add their own choices. But will it be controversial? That depends on the judges' propensity to speak out, even resign. Not much chance of that at present, as initially there may be just three: the president of RIBA, a representative of *The Sunday Times*, and one other. On top of this, just a fortnight will elapse between the announcement of the shortlist on November 7 and the award of the prize on November 21.

Stirling's widow feels passionately that the prize should help young, struggling architects. "They have a horrible time at the moment, really awful." She knows, too, the value of prizes to an architect's career. "The Aluminium Prize which Jim received for the engineering department at Leicester University helped us to buy our first house."

A sceptic could say that £20,000 might transform the career of a struggling author but mean little to a Foster, a Rogers or a Hopkins, and not a great deal to many architects after the money has been shared around the office, as in most cases it certainly deserves to be.

Chris Palmer of RIBA hits back: "£22,000 is the average annual earnings of the country's 28,000 practising architects. Kingsley Amis may have spent his Booker Prize money on new curtains and A.S. Byatt on a swimming pool. You won't catch an architect doing that."

The new award goes exclusively to architects but, with many of today's adventurous high-tech buildings, engineers deserve to share the glory. Tony Hunt was the structural engineer for the RIBA Building of the Year in both 1994 and 1995, first for the Waterloo International Terminal and then for the Huddersfield Stadium. Hunt had the initial idea for the glass-and-steel span at Waterloo, and it was he who actually brought the architect, Nicholas Grimshaw, in on the job.

If the reputation of British architecture is flying higher than ever before, it is substantially due to the enormous pool of innovative talent in engineering practices. Ove Arups, founded by the great Sir Ove, the man who made the Sydney Opera House stand up, is the prime example.

Today, Arups has its own publicity machine and produces the best journal in the construction business. The reason is simple. It is widely known that Norman Foster is the architect of Stansted Airport, and that Renzo Piano designed Kansai Airport in Japan. Not many are aware that Arups were the engineers for both these athletic structures.

Chris Wise, an Arup high-flyer, says (only half-jokingly): "Today you will find more people here interested in the arts than science. Computers do the number crunching. To get the best jobs and attract talented people, we have to get recognition for our creative contribution."

At present the Stirling Prize, like the RIBA Awards, is limited to buildings in Britain, but now so many British architects are winning commissions abroad that the net should be extended to take in these buildings. Sir James Stirling's most acclaimed building, after all, was his Stuttgart Art Gallery.

Prime candidates would be Will Alsop's stupendous electric-blue regional government headquarters in Marseilles, completed last year, and Ian Ritchie's new glass-and-steel exhibition hall for the Leipzig Fair.

The key question is, will the Stirling Prize make a difference?

Here RIBA has the best answer. When the Lobb Partnership won the RIBA Building of the Year Award last year, they were anything but a household name. Since then they have rocketed to international stardom by winning the commission for the stadium for the Sydney Olympics in the year 2000.

Fusion for all

ADVANCE publicity for this gig, part of the New Directions in Urban Music Series, promised "a fusion of jazz, funk, soul, hip-hop, dub reggae and drum 'n' bass". The formality of the venue notwithstanding, such an adventurous mix of club sounds was exactly what singer Cleveland Watkiss and associates provided in two hours of loosely structured but hard-hitting music.

Despite a less than ringing introductory endorsement from Biyi Adepegba, the series' instigator — "don't blame me if you don't like it; I'm only the promoter" — drummer Mark Gilmore and electric tabla player Talvin Singh kickstarted the proceedings by producing, from a darkened stage, a pounding rhythm liberally embellished with

Cleveland Watkiss
Purcell Room

swirls and howls of electronic sound. Once a groove had been established, Watkiss's vocals began to glide smoothly over it, with saxophonist Steve Williamson contributing everything from subterranean rumbling to scrabbling high-note runs. Effects and samples were provided by DJ La Rouge, and a heavy bass by Oroh Angimia.

For the two hour-long sets which followed, Watkiss — the Bobby McFerrin of urban club music — gently presided over an extraordinary *mélange* of sounds and textures, interspersing earnest appeals for universal peace and harmony with bouts of spacy scatting and cosmic crooning, and indulging in the odd virtuosic display of vigorous mouth percussion. But it was Gilmore's scurrying jungle rhythms, occasionally teasingly stumbling and tripping, but never losing their hectic momentum, which held the music together.

The informality and openness of the music, and the consequent lapses into self-indulgence by some participants, did result in the odd longueur. At times, too, the band's restless eclecticism shaded into somewhat arbitrary genre-hopping. Nevertheless, for sheer energy and originality it was hard to beat.

CHRIS PARKER

CONCERTS: Chamber with an electric charge; and brilliance with a big sound in Birmingham

Four of a magic kind

STRING QUARTETS

In this extraordinary past month of Lindsays and Emersons, Borodin and Bergs, it has been the **Takács Quartet** who have taken the crown of glory. When they arrived at the Wigmore Hall for the start of their Schubert cycle (it continues on Saturday and returns in November), there was a palpable sense of expectancy in the air. And the quartet's capacity audience was rewarded by playing which at times reached the point where the music seemed to take on a life of its own.

One of these moments — and it was an extended one — was during the Quartet No 15 in G major. From that opening metamorphosis of minor into major to the strange Trio of the Scherzo, it was as if an electric current were being passed from one player to another. The Takács's *tour de force* was the slow movement, an intense and self-contained little *Winterreise* with its sharp *splinters of melody, harmonic* dislocations, and journeyman's tread.

Before the interval, the Takács had begun with the B-flat and E-flat major Quartets. The Takács leapt at the latter's merriment, creating a veritable farmyard of activity, before the sustained song of the slow movement. Like the first, it showed the players' skill in creating a warm blend of textures within which four individual singing voices are still vividly and wonderfully heard.

The night before, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the **Alban Berg Quartet** of Vienna were celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary. They are only four years older than *the Takács, but sound almost* twice that. In their venerable and deeply serious playing, the listener can almost feel the players putting themselves through their rigorous pieces, honing their intellects one against another — and especially against the stern leadership of Günter Pichler.

Unlike the Takács, who have a new leader, and the Emersons, who enterprisingly and enrichingly switch first and second violins, the Berg Quartet maintain their hierarchy. There were times, particularly in the slow movement of the Mozart Quartet in D minor, K421, when one longed to hear more of Gerhard Schulz's more warm-hearted second violin, though the sheer sophistication of discourse in the first movement and the rigours of the finale could not but be admired.

Before a brilliantly conceived performance of Mozart's Quartet in G, K387, the Berg Quartet turned to Schnittke and his Fourth Quartet. This was a magisterial and uncompromising performance of a long and concentrated work, its music dragged into being from outer darkness, almost against its *will, buffeted this way and* that through microtones and distant Slavic chants, only to end in what, for Schnittke and his writing, is a still unanswered question.

HILARY FINCH

A model tribute

CBSO/Rattle
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

When Ravel wrote his *Mother Goose*, between 1908 and 1910, all that was generally known in Europe of oriental music was the pentatonic scale which he uses with such wit in *Little Ugly, Empress of the Pagodas*. The cultures were then so alien to each other that it was inconceivable that anyone brought up in, say, China or Japan would ever be able to write Western music as sophisticated as anyone brought up in Germany or France. That, however, is what was achieved by Toru Takemitsu, who was born in Japan seven years before Ravel died and to whose memory Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra dedicated their performance of *Mother Goose* on the day his death was announced.

Takemitsu, who derived much of his inspiration from modern French music, would have enjoyed it.

The first half of the concert in Symphony Hall was a demonstration model of Berlioz's *Le Corsaire* overture, featuring all the optional extras available to the conductor, and an extraordinary account of Sibelius's *Violin Concerto*. Sarah Chang's performance was remarkable not so much for the technical maturity worthy of a violinist twice the age of 15 as for its interpretative assurance and its physical relationship with the music. It is not often that an audience encounters both youthful freshness and the big sound, the poise and the brilliance normally developed after at least half a lifetime's experience. The occasional expressive exaggeration or uncertainty in ensemble was a welcome indication that she still has something to achieve and is not due for retirement just yet.

GERALD LARNER

Great heavens above

RADIO

WHEN I was a lad in the newspaper business, I interviewed a woman in flowing robes who spoke like Mystic Meg. Her council house was entirely lit by candles, allegedly because unnatural power interfered with her communication with the planets but actually because she had not paid the electricity bill.

I wrote down her ramblings and returned to the office, to be told by the news editor. "Not astrologers, you idiot, astronomers". Oh I see, though I must say the latter duly appeared to be just as mad as the former.

Starstruck was part of a fascinating Radio 4 series called *Journeys into Space* and this one concerned astronomers not astrologers. But the manic enthusiasm so familiar in Patrick Moore is surely common to both disciplines.

Amateur astronomers are especially interesting because of the symbiotic relationship between the amateur and the professional. Amateurs are to astronomy what lottery money is becoming to the arts: vital ballast that keeps the ship afloat.

Even so, astronomers are easily mocked, what with all that stargazing from back gardens while the real world turns, the bills come in and the guttering falls down. But *Starstruck*, made by Ruth Prince, was an affectionate documentary which happily resisted the ribald. Amateurs such as George Alcock, doyen of the breed at 83, are the full-time eyes of astronomy and their commitment makes a real contribution. Alcock has discovered several novae.

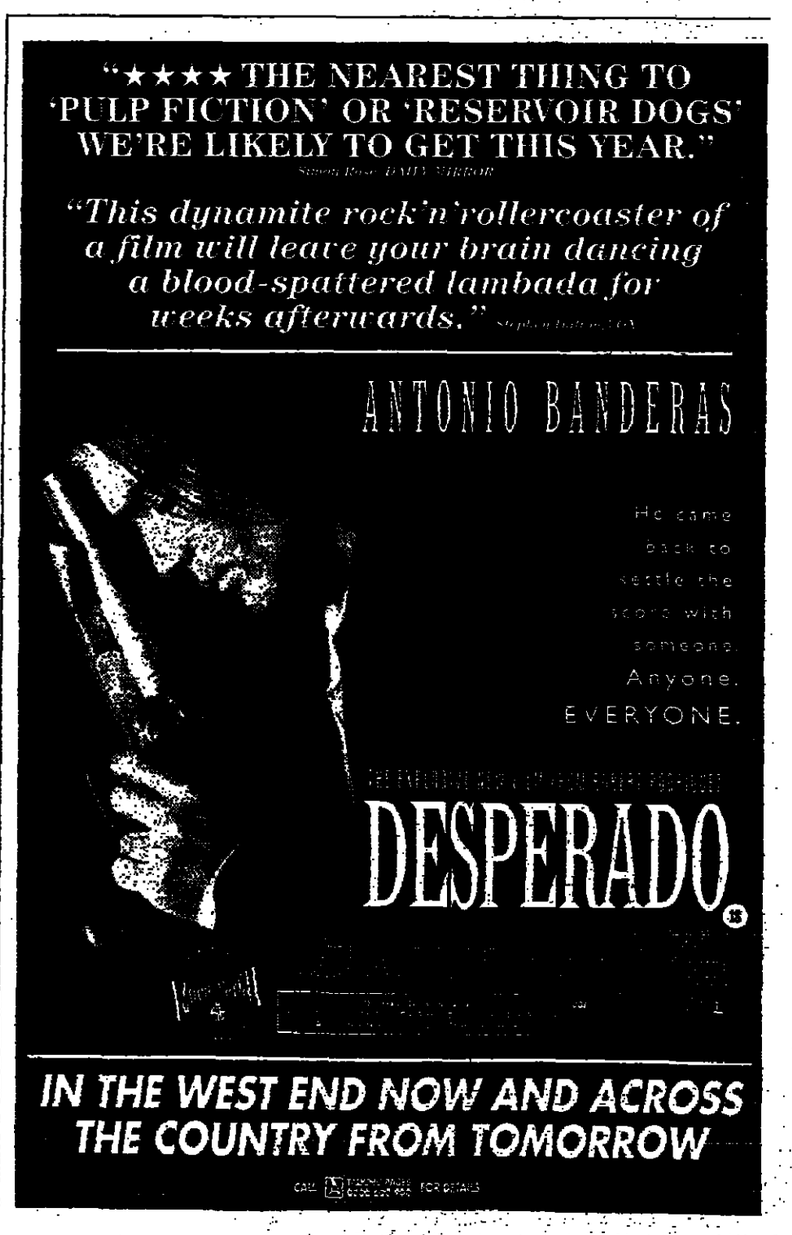
Starstruck is the type of programme Radio 4 does particularly well these days, introducing the variety of voices to the network that Liz Forgan advocated when she became managing director of network radio three years ago.

People misunderstood that desire, thinking that it meant Geordie newsreaders, and there was a predictable clamour from middle England. But the Radio 4 audience is still there and its grumbles have always been part of its charm.

Forgan's influence in making Radio 3 react to the sampler-programming of Classic FM is more debatable, but her role in transforming Radios 2 and 5 has been uncontestably positive.

So in the week of her surprise resignation — not that an *astrologer* would have been surprised — *Starstruck* was not the only programme, and Radio 4 not the only network, to demonstrate that her legacy is an enriching one.

PETER BARNARD



هكذا في الاصل

Queen's Bench Division — Law Report February 23 1996 — House of Lords

Security for papers held under solicitor's lien

Ismail and Another v Richards Butler (a Firm)

Before Mr Justice Moore-Bick

[Judgment February 16]

Where a solicitor had a lien over papers under an existing retainer the court was not prevented from exercising its discretion to interfere with that lien where there existed a concurrent and general lien arising from naturally concluded retainers.

Order 29, rule 6 of the Rules of the Supreme Court under which a court might order payment into court in full in a claim for the recovery of specific property did not displace the established jurisdiction of the court to grant relief in equity against the exercise of a solicitor's lien.

Mr Justice Moore-Bick so held in the Queen's Bench Division when giving judgment in an appeal by Dr Fawzi Ahmed Abou Ismail and the Aratra Potato Company Ltd against the order on January 9 of Master Pollard that upon payment of sums to Richards Butler, solicitors, and into court, Richards Butler should deliver to the plaintiffs all papers belonging to them.

The plaintiffs had had a long standing relationship with the defendant to act on their behalf in litigation. There had been an unwritten understanding, the plaintiff said, that fees from the partner originally handling his work would not exceed £175 an hour. When that partner retired, written arrangements were made but with no mention of hourly rates. It transpired that the new partner proposed hourly rates of £255 for himself and £150 for his assistant.

The relationship between the plaintiffs and defendant subsequently broke down and the plaintiffs instructed new solicitors and asked the defendant for their papers so that ongoing litigation would not be prejudiced.

The defendant refused to do so on any of the terms offered by the plaintiff, insisting on payment of fees in full and it ultimately issued a writ to recover its fees. Meanwhile as the live cases became increasingly pressing the plaintiffs issued a summons seeking delivery up of the papers with the defendant's bills to be taxed.

Mr Robert Deacon for the plaintiffs; Mr Graham Charkham for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE MOORE-BICK said that Mr Deacon had submitted that it was well established that the court imposed a restriction on a solicitor's exercise of his lien to avoid injustice which the client might otherwise suffer if prevented from pursuing litigation. There being nothing exceptional about the present case, the master had been wrong to require the plaintiffs to pay substantial sums to the defendant and into court to release the documents.

The defendant contended, inter alia, that the application fell within the scope of and was governed exclusively by the provisions of Order 29, rule 6 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and therefore the court could only order it to deliver up papers against payment in of the full amount of the claim.

It further submitted that it had been retained by the plaintiffs in several different matters some of which had been completed long ago with fees outstanding. Each gave rise to a general lien which could not later become qualified merely as a result of the defendant's subsequent termination of other retainers in uncompleted matters.

His Lordship examined the development of the law relating to the exercise of a solicitor's lien including the cases of *Heslop v Metcalfe* ((1837) 3 My & Cr 183); *Robins v Goldingham* ((1872) LR 13 Eq 440); *Gamlen Chemical Co (UK) Ltd v Rochem Ltd* ([1980] 1 WLR 614) and *A v B* ([1984] 1 All ER 265).

It had long been recognised that a solicitor had the general right to embarrass his client by withholding papers in order to force him to pay what was due and that the court would not compel him to produce them at the instance of his client. Where the solicitor discharged himself he was not allowed to exercise his lien so as to interfere with the course of justice.

In those circumstances the overriding principle was that the court should make such order as was most conducive to the interests of justice by weighing up (a) the fact that the litigant should not be deprived of material relevant to the conduct of his case and (b) that litigation should be conducted with due regards to the interests of the court's own officers who should not be left without payment for what was justly due to them.

On the defendant's first point, his Lordship was unable to accept that Order 29, rule 6 was intended to or did sweep away the established jurisdiction of the court to grant relief in equity against the exercise of a solicitor's lien.

It would have removed from the court a valuable discretion and it would have rendered the client whose solicitor had discharged himself significantly worse off than under the existing law in that in every case it would have been necessary to pay into court the full amount of his former solicitor's claim in order to recover his papers.

It was pointed out in the defendant's second line of argument that all previous cases on the point had been concerned with a solicitor who had been retained to conduct a single piece of litigation which was still pending and whose lien only arose from that retainer.

It was submitted that since the retainers had expired naturally in relation to other matters on which the defendant had been retained it had not discharged them.

Accordingly, one of the essential grounds of the court's jurisdiction to restrict the exercise of the liens arising under those retainers was missing nor could those liens be affected by the discharge of any other retainers whether brought about by the plaintiffs or the defendant.

In his Lordship's judgment where a solicitor terminated his retainer in relation to a live case the essential nature of the problem of doing justice as between solicitor and client was not altered by the fact that the solicitor had previously been instructed on a matter which had by then become dead and thereby had a concurrent lien over the papers in the case which was still live.

For the court to restrict the exercise of the lien which arose under an earlier retainer in the same manner as the lien arising under the current retainer was consistent with the principle underlying the exercise of the equitable jurisdiction established in the decided cases.

There was, in his Lordship's view, therefore jurisdiction in such cases to make an order that papers be delivered up and the court should do so unless exceptional circumstances indicated otherwise.

Although on the facts the defendant had brought an end to the retainers the reality of the case was that the value of the lien to the defendant was likely to be considered diminished if papers were handed over.

His Lordship could not decide on the material before him whether the defendant was entitled to recover the full or any amount of its claim but taking all the circumstances of the case into account his Lordship considered that some departure from the normal practice was called for in the interests of justice.

Accordingly the case required that the plaintiffs provide some security for the defendant's claim and an appropriate amount was nothing short of the full amount of the claim. His Lordship therefore set the sum at £450,000.

Solicitors: Mishcon de Reya; Richards Butler.

Original tenant liable after disclaimer

Hindcastle Ltd v Barbara Attenborough Associates Ltd and Others

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Griffiths, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead

[Speeches February 22]

The disclaimer of a lease under section 178 of the Insolvency Act 1986 by the liquidator of a company which had taken an assignment of the lease did not affect the obligations of the original tenant or his guarantor to pay the rent due under the lease.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by the second and third defendants, the liquidator of CIT Developments Ltd and Mr Patrick John Whitten, against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Millett) (*The Times* July 6, 1994; [1995] QB 95) upholding orders made by Mr Simon Goldblatt, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge granting the plaintiff landlords, Hindcastle Ltd, summary judgment in respect of arrears of rent due under a lease. The first defendants, Barbara Attenborough Associates Ltd, the original tenant, did not appeal.

CIT, who were the intermediate assignees of the lease, were in the same position as the original tenant as they had entered into direct covenants with the landlords covering the rest of the term of the lease. Mr Whitten, a director of CIT, was their surety. In 1989 CIT assigned the lease to Prest Ltd, who subsequently went into liquidation. Prest's liquidator gave notice of disclaimer of the lease pursuant to section 178.

Section 178 provides: "(4) A disclaimer . . . (a) operates so as to determine . . . the rights, interests and liabilities of the company in or in respect of the property disclaimed; but (b) does not, except so far as is necessary for the purpose of releasing the company from any liability, affect the rights or liabilities of any other person."

Mr David Oliver, QC and Miss Carolyn Walton for the defendants; Mr Kim Lewinson, QC and Mr Jonathan Arkush for the landlords.

LORD NICHOLLS said that the defendants were liable for non-payment of the rent and service and other charges unless the liquidator's act in disclaiming the lease ended their liability. That depended upon the proper interpretation of the disclaimer provisions in the Insolvency Act 1986.

In dismissing the defendants' appeal the Court of Appeal had applied the decision in *Hill v East and West India Dock Co* ((1884) 9 App Cas 448) and distinguished the decision in *Stacey v Hill* ([1901] 1 QB 660). The tension between those decisions lay at the heart of the appeal.

Sections 178 to 182 of the 1986 Act were the sections governing the disclaimer of onerous property by a liquidator of a company that was being wound up. The ancestor of the disclaimer provisions in their present form was the Bankruptcy Act 1883.

The Bankruptcy Act 1869 had introduced machinery enabling the trustee in bankruptcy, for the first time, to disclaim leases and other onerous property. Section 23 stated the consequences of disclaimer. If the property disclaimed was a lease, it was "deemed to have been surrendered".

From an early date the court had robustly declined to give effect to the literal construction of those words. In *Ex parte Walton; In re Levy* ((1881) 17 Ch D 746, 754) Sir George Jessel, Master of the Rolls, stated that section 23 meant that the property was to be disclaimed "so far only as is necessary in order to relieve the bankrupt and his estate and the trustee from liability". Those words might well be the source of the express provision to the same effect included in all the disclaimer legislation from 1883 onwards.

In *Hill v East and West India Dock Co* the assignee of a lease had become bankrupt and his trustee had disclaimed the lease. The House of Lords decided that the original tenant remained liable for rent notwithstanding the deemed surrender of the lease under section 23 of the 1869 Act.

When the House of Lords heard the appeal in *Hill v East and West India Dock Co* the 1883 Act had already received the Royal Assent. Earl Cairns described the new statute as much more explicit and said that the question raised by the appeal was therefore not one which could very well occur again.

A case concerning the liability of a guarantor came before the Court of Appeal in *Stacey v Hill*. The defendant had guaranteed payment of the rent by the tenant. The tenant became bankrupt and his trustee disclaimed the lease. The landlord did not resume possession. The court held that the guarantor was not liable for rent after the lease was disclaimed.

The first and broadest ground put forward in support of that decision was that on disclaimer the lease determined and no rent could subsequently become due under it. The defendants submitted that there was no logical distinction between the position of the original tenant and the position of a guarantor and that *Stacey v Hill* was to be preferred to *Hill v East and West India Dock Co*.

His Lordship agreed that such differences as there were between an original tenant and a guarantor were not material. Post-disclaimer, both were liable or neither.

Either the 1883 Act had left the existing law clarified but unchanged, in which case both the original tenant and the guarantor remained liable notwithstanding disclaimer, or the Act had changed the law and relieved original tenants and guarantors alike from liability post-disclaimer.

His Lordship was unable to agree that the reasoning in *Stacey v Hill* was to be preferred. That reasoning flew in the face of the plain language of the statute and failed to give effect to paragraph (b) of section 178(4) and its evident purpose.

The 1883 Act had made explicit what *Hill v East and West India Dock Co* had held was implicit in the 1869 Act. Parliament had incorporated the judicial interpretation of the 1869 Act into the 1883 Act, in terms which had been continued by Parliament to this day, most recently in 1986.

The second ground prayed in aid the principle that the release of a debtor discharged his guarantor. As a general proposition that was true. But, here again, the conclusion sought to be drawn failed to take account of the saving words in paragraph (b) of subsection (4).

Disclaimer operated to determine the insolvent's liabilities under the lease, but subject to a qualification: not so as to affect the rights or liabilities of other persons. Parliament had provided that the general rule should not apply. The release of the insolvent debtor was not to discharge a surety from his liabilities to the lessor.

The third ground was that the exception built into paragraph (b) applied in the case of a guarantor. In order to release the insolvent from all his liabilities in respect of the lease, it was necessary to release the guarantor from his obligations to the landlord.

His Lordship was unable to agree. In order to release the insolvent it was sufficient to extinguish the insolvent's liability to indemnify the guarantor. It was not necessary to go further, and release the guarantor from his liability to the lessor.

The fourth ground was that, unlike an original tenant, who undertook liabilities without any right of recourse against anyone at that time, a guarantor's right to be indemnified by the principal debtor was inherent in the relationship between them. His right of indemnity arose at the moment of creation of the guarantee liability, and was to be regarded as inseparable from it.

However, the fundamental purpose of an ordinary guarantee of another's debt was that the risk of the principal debtor's insolvency should fall on the guarantor and not the creditor. The disclaimer machinery in the insolvency statutes achieved the same result in the case of guarantees of leases.

The guarantor remained liable to the landlord. The guarantor lost his right to an indemnity from the insolvent tenant, but in place the statute gave him a right to prove as a creditor of the insolvent tenant's estate.

Had there been no disclaimer the guarantor's right of indemnity would have led only to a right to prove against the insolvent's estate. The disclaimer provisions did not change that. The Act left the loss consequent upon the tenant's bankruptcy where the parties to the guarantee intended.

There were three possible courses open to their Lordships. One was to depart from *Hill v East and West India Dock Co* and to decide that disclaimer discharged the original tenant and the guarantor. The second course was to overrule *Stacey v Hill* and hold that disclaimer did not affect the obligations of original tenant or guarantor. The third course was to leave the two decisions standing side by side.

His Lordship had given his reasons for rejecting the first course. The choice lay between the second and third courses.

The decision in *Stacey v Hill* was unsatisfactory. However, although criticised and distinguished and circumvented, the decision had stood as a decision of the Court of Appeal for over 90 years. The decision had been acted upon frequently after leases had been disclaimed. The disclaimer provisions had been re-enacted on several occasions but Parliament had not intervened.

Those were important considerations, but they should be seen in perspective. Disclaimer was an intermittent rather than a constant problem, associated with periods of recession when leases were unsaleable.

A further important factor was that it would not be right to overrule *Stacey v Hill* if that would expose guarantors to more extensive liabilities than they reasonably anticipated when signing their guarantees.

However, his Lordship was not persuaded that people had been entering into guarantees in the expectation they would not be liable in the very circumstance at which the guarantee was primarily aimed: the insolvency of the person whose obligations were being guaranteed.

Ultimately what had persuaded his Lordship and dispelled any lingering hesitation was the frankly absurd results produced if *Stacey v Hill* and *Hill v East and West India Dock Co* were left standing uneasily side by side.

First, in practical terms, an original tenant guaranteed that the tenants for the time being would perform their obligations. There was no practical justification for distinguishing his position from that of a formal guarantor.

Second, the present case was illustrative of the tortuous distinctions which would follow. According to *Stacey v Hill*, a surety's liability was discharged when the principal debtor's obligation to indemnify him was determined by disclaimer of the lease.

But that reasoning would not operate to release the surety in the present case. He had guaranteed the obligations of CIT, not Prest. The right of indemnity which then arose was against CIT.

That right, which was the all important right according to *Stacey v Hill*, was not determined when the lease was disclaimed by the liquidator of Prest. The disclaimer operated to determine the surety's right of indemnity against Prest, but that right arose after he had given the guarantee.

Determination of a right of indemnity arising later did not bring down the guarantee, because it was not an inherent part of the guarantee. So the end result, on that footing, would be that disclaimer operated to discharge a guarantee if the disclaimer was in the insolvency of the principal debtor, but not if the disclaimer was in the insolvency of an assignee.

That would make no sort of legal or commercial sense. That would mean that directors who guaranteed their company's obligations would not be liable if their own company became insolvent while tenant, but they would be liable if an assignee from their company encountered financial difficulties while tenant.

Practical mischiefs could arise when former tenants were held liable for defaults by subsequent assignees. However, *Stacey v Hill* did not have the effect of striking down liabilities by reason of the acts of assignees over whose identity a guarantor had no control.

Stacey v Hill had the paradoxical effect of discharging the guarantee in a circumstance at which it was primarily aimed and when there were no such mischiefs, but of not discharging the guarantee in a more remote circumstance where the mischiefs following assignments might arise.

His Lordship was unable to accept that that was, or should be, the state of the law. It would lack any rational or practical basis. It would defy coherent explanation. It would defeat the parties' intentions. His Lordship would overrule *Stacey v Hill*.

Lord Keith, Lord Griffiths and Lord Browne-Wilkinson agreed and Lord Lloyd delivered a concurring speech.

Solicitors: Houghtons; Chethams.

Correction

In *Cavity Trays v RMC Panel Products* (*The Times* February 10) counsel for the defendant respondent was Mr Mark Vanhegan.

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First-season trainer rises to Grand National challenge

Earle flies high with Dextra Dove

BY JULIAN MUSCAT


JOHN SEASLEY

Earle puts his grey National hope, Dextra Dove, through his paces on the all-weather gallops at Mappowder

SOMEWHERE within the whirlpool of Rupert Martin's emotions on the morning of March 30 will be the recognition that wedlock has truly changed the course of his life. As Dextra Dove attempts to conquer the course in the Grand National, Martin will ponder where he might have been but for his marriage to Janie, sister to Simon Earle, who trains the steely grey at Mappowder Court Stables in Dorset.

The stables themselves demonstrate just how completely Martin, 46, has embraced National Hunt racing. He bought the property six years ago in anticipation of his retirement. It was an idyllic spot, embracing a 200-acre cattle farm and splendid views across the vale.

All that changed around six months ago, when the diggers moved in to transform the place into its present function. What was once a rural farmyard now resounds to the clatter of hooves inside a modern racing establishment. And locals in the sleepy village of Mappowder are bracing themselves for the noisy procession that follows every Grand National winner back home.

Little wonder, therefore, that Earle proved willing to abandon his riding career in exchange for the keys. He has been in residence for just seven months, during which 20 of the yard's 29 stables have been let. Expansion is not on the agenda; the emphasis is on upgrading the quality of horse at quantity's expense.

They say that Grand National winners invariably emerge from a background of romance. If romance ushered Martin into racehorse ownership, Earle's own association with Dextra Dove is bound tightly with emotional strings. But for his proprietor's offer to join the training ranks, Earle, 31, would almost certainly have extended his riding days for as long as the nine-year-old remained sound.

As it is, Earle returned to the weighing room for the last time at Worcester in June, after Dextra Dove allowed him to retire on a winner. He knew at the time that the grey would be making the short journey to Mappowder from Robert Alner's yard.

And when, in October, Earle broke the ice in his new vocation, Dextra Dove was the catalyst once again. The competitive chaser accrued seven successive victories before the sequence was halted at Newbury last month. Ironically, that narrow defeat was the performance that properly advertised his National credentials.

"The horse knew full well he had lost that race," Martin reflected as Dextra Dove thundered past on the all-weather gallop. "He got used to having a lot of people around him in the winner's enclosure. I'm not sentimental about horses because they are there to race, but you could see he was a bit low on the journey home."

To judge from his present demeanour, Dextra Dove has long since exorcised the memories of that defeat and Earle plans to prepare him for Aintree in the Great Yorkshire Chase at Doncaster a week tomorrow. "We have decided to miss Cheltenham and go for Aintree," the trainer said. "It would be a great thrill to see the horse running in the Ritz but the Grand National is the greatest race in the world. We've got to go for it."

The prospect leaves Martin visibly weak at the knees. "I have never been to Aintree but I'll be a nervous wreck the night before," he said. "I'm not worried about the horse; he's a smashing jumper of fences. But I'll start to see things, like the horse coming up the straight, winning. It's what keeps owners interested."

Plenty of history is embedded in the walls of Mappowder Court Stables on the cusp of Bulbarrow Hill. Martin's home was once the family seat to the Coker dynasty, which made its fortune, before surrendering it, in the slave trade. Theirs was a vast territory. Starting from Sherborne, houses on the estate were numbered so that, in Mappowder, some ten miles to the south east, you will find number 680 on Hammond Street, itself no more than 300 yards long.

At 493 yards, the Aintree run-in is more than twice that distance. A contemporary chapter in the little village's heritage will be forged if Dextra Dove completes it ahead of his pursuers.

RICHARD EVANS

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That's My Man breaks leg

THAT'S MY MAN, ante-post favourite with Irish bookmakers for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival, has suffered fatal injuries in a gallop at champion trainer Aidan O'Brien's Ballydoyle stable.

Owned by the legendary Irish bookmaker-punter J. P. McManus, That's My Man was unbeaten over hurdles and was considered an Irish banker in the build-up to next month's Festival.

"The horse broke his off-hind leg about a furlong from the end of a half-speed gallop yesterday at Ballydoyle," his jockey, Charlie Swan, reported at Clonmel yesterday. "It is a terrible blow for all of us because he was really going well and was one of our main fancies for Cheltenham.

Swan added: "I was about to pick up his lead horse when That's My Man had his accident. The vets were there and took X-rays and tried everything to save him, but they had to put him down later in the day."

Alderbrook switches to Kempton tomorrow

AFTER the loss of yesterday's Kingwell Hurdle meeting at Wincanton, Kim Bailey nominated tomorrow's Levy Board Hurdle at Kempton Park as the comeback race for his champion hurdler, Alderbrook.

Bailey is happy that the quickly sanctioned back-up race will provide an equally good stepping stone to his gelding's title defence at Cheltenham on March 12.

"He definitely goes to Kempton," Bailey said. "As he didn't go anywhere this morning I would not see any problem with sending him to Kempton instead as the two courses are quite similar. To be honest, I think the ground would have been dreadful at Wincanton."

Bailey confirmed Alderbrook was "absolutely fine" and that Richard Dunwoody would retain the ride.

Other trainers thwarted by yesterday's abandonment were also quick to pitch their charges into the new Kempton race. Richard Hannon, who trains Right Win, said: "Ours is in excellent shape and, although it is a shame the race has been lost, he will definitely run in the rescheduled contest."

Right Win's highly regarded stablemate, Alriffa, will make his hurdling debut in the Dovecote Novices' Hurdle on the same card.

Meanwhile, Terry Casey has decided to let Rough Quest take his chance in the Racing Post Chase on the same card after supervising a final gallop yesterday morning.

Casey's gelding has not enjoyed the best of luck so far this term. He has fallen on two occasions when going well, and has finished second in competitive handicaps on his other two starts, but Casey is hoping for better fortune tomorrow.

His regular rider, Mick Fitzgerald, will be claimed by Nick Henderson to ride either Amtrak Express or Big Matt, which leaves Casey searching for a jockey.

☐ Reg Hollinshead was yesterday fined £500 for the mix-up which led to his running the wrong horse at Southwell. The trainer, 74, took the three-year-old and the year-older Taniyar there on January 8 and admitted saddling Loch Style for the wrong race.

HAYDOCK PARK

THUNDERER

2.00 ALL CLEAR (nap)
2.30 Kilfinny Cross
3.00 Mysilv
3.30 The Grey Monk
4.00 Cool Luke
4.30 Country Tarrogen
5.00 Bob's Ploy

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 KILFINNY CROSS (nap). 5.00 Bob's Ploy.

Carl Evans: 4.30 Clare Man.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs S Pellmont) B Hall 10-0 . . B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F – Bal P — pulled up U — unseated rider B — brought down C — clipped up R — refused F — disqualified. Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if Bal, UB — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite, or latest race if not favourite last time out. (F — firm, good to firm, G — good, G+ — soft, good to soft, Heavy. Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Ticket plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.)

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE), SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

2.00 TWEEDLE DUN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,583 2mj (11 runners)

1	2/3214	BALHERNOCH 10 (BF,F) T Bell, 5 Eyelashes 7-11-11	L Wyer	93
2	4213F1	ALL CLEAR 36 (D,G,S) J Lambert M Pipe 5-11-5	D Bridgwater	98
3	4614-31	GIVE BEST 13 (D,G,S) G McMahon T J O'Neill 5-11-4	M Dwyer	96
4	5-03045	HIGHBEATH 43 (S) Stanhope Mrs M Pauling 5-11-1	P Niven	92
5	60022-4	KNUCKLEBUSTER 87 (S) Brooks Partners T Fairhurst 5-10-13	R Garrity	91
6	56-006	PUREVALUE 43 (A) Sanderson M W Easterby 5-10-9	R Dunwoody	86
7	201103	RACHAEL'S OWEN 13 (D,F,G) (Cornish Pilot Pty) Barker T Dyer 5-10-7	J Callaghan	[6]
8	000-123	SALVO 92 (D,F) (Mrs M Clark) Mrs M Clark 5-10-5	Mr S Sliders	95
9	3445-44-	RAMPANT ROSE 335 (C Kemp) S Rudkin 5-10-4	N Leach	92
10	26-6064	BE BRAVE 10 (Mrs S Pattinson) T Ellwood 5-10-0	R Rourke	95
11	45-0	RIVERBANK ROSE 258 (S Chatterton) M Dods 5-10-0	Guy Lewis (5)	73

Long handicap: Rampant Rose 9-13, Be Brave 9-10, Pharoman Rose 9-2

BETTING: 5-2 All Clear, 5-1 Balhernoch, Give Best, 8-1 Highbeath, Knucklebuster, 10-1 Purevalue, Rampant Rose, 12-1 other.

1995: SPARKLING CUE 6-11-4 R Dunwoody (F 2, M Pipe, 3 ran

FORM FOCUS

BALHERNOCH 19¼l 4th of 19 to Chipped Out in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, soft). Earlier neck 2nd of 18 to Tom Brodie in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good) with HIGHBEATH (10lb) better off 7¼l 4th. ALL CLEAR beat Lake Kariba 2¼l in novice handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to soft). GIVE BEST Last Chorus (7) (2¼l, 4th in maiden hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). PUREVALUE 25l 5th to Lansborough in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). RACHAEL'S OWEN 1¼l 2nd of 17 to Bar Brake in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). SALVO 9¼l 3rd of 15 to Topcatcher in novice handicap hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good). RAMPANT ROSE 20l 4th of 12 to Fold Alive in novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 1f, good to soft). BE BRAVE 9¼l 5th to Direct Route in novice handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, soft). Selection: ALL CLEAR

2.30 WHITE RABBIT HANDICAP CHASE (£4,509, 3m) (6 runners)

1	1123-F-P	MOORCROFT BOY 41 (D,G,S) (Mrs S Nicholson) T Forster 11-12-0	A Maguire	–
2	140-402	ENCORE UN PEU 6 (G,S) (Admiral Rodney) M Pipe, 9-11-8	D Bridgwater	96
3	U411-21	GENERAL WOLFE 38 (D,G,S) (Mrs Whitaker) T Forster 7-11-2	R Dunwoody	95
4	200-4P4	NEVADA GOLD 41 (D,F,G,S) (Middleton) Mrs F Needham 10-10-13	P McLoughlin	95
5	2/P1-125	KILFINNY CROSS 13 (D,F,G,S) (A Thompson) J Pearce 8-10-2	M Dwyer	[6]
6	31P3/56	ASTINGS 18 (D,G,S) (M A Fenton) J Fitzgerald 7-10-0	W Dwan	–

Long handicap: Astings 9-10

BETTING: 3-4 General Wolfe, 11-4 Encore Un Peu, 6-1 Moorcroft Boy, Kilfinny Cross, 8-1 Nevada Gold, 16-1 Astings

1995: CACHE FLEUR 7-11-3 R Dunwoody (10, 20, M Pipe, 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOORCROFT BOY tailed off when pulled up 2 out in 12-runner handicap chase won by Full of Oats at Warwick (3m 5f, good to soft). Earlier 2¼l 3rd of 36 to Minnehoma in grade III Martell Grand National at Aintree (4m 4f, heavy). Apr 1994 ENCORE UN PEU 4l 2nd of 7 to Old Bridge in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 4f 110yd, good). GENERAL WOLFE beat Northants 7l in 9-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3m, good to soft). NEVADA GOLD 39¼l 4th of 7 to Silver Slick in handicap chase at Newcastle (3m 6f, good). KILFINNY CROSS 2¼l 2nd of 16 to Class Of Ninenteen at Leicester (3m, good) on penultimate start. ASTINGS 36¼l 6th of 9 to Abercrombie Duel in handicap chase at Kelso (3m 1f, soft). Selection: GENERAL WOLFE

3.00 MD FOODS FARMERS SELECT HURDLE (£4,879 2mj (7 runners)

1	111-1	DATO STAR 20 (D,S) (R Rider, Mrs M Gaffney) J Donald & J Jefferson 5-11-8	M Dwyer	[6]
2	15F-121	MYSILV 34 (C,D,F,G,S) (Olde Racing Club) C Egerton 5-11-7	A Maguire	[6]
3	1121-20	EXPRESS GIFT 13 (CD,B,S) (Homer Joan), Amoldy (Mr. M Rankin, 7-11-4	P Niven	80
4	312	SOLOMON'S DANCER 20 (D,G) (W Haigh) W Haigh 6-11-4	D Byrne	54
5	00U11/	STAUNCH FRIEND 804 (D,G,S) (B Schmidt-Bodenn) M Tompkins 6-11-4	R Dunwoody	–
6	52/041-0	CASTLE SECRET 95F (F,S) (Mr. R Summers) D Burchell 10-11-0	D J Burchell	65
7	1	CELESTIAL CHOIR 13 (D,G) (Mrs C Sykes) J Eyre 6-10-12	D Pearl	80

BETTING: 4-5 Mysilv, 9-4 Dato Star, 10-1 Express Gift, Staunch Friend, 14-1 Celestial Choir, 16-1 Solomon's Dancer, 25-1 Castle Secret.

1995: BOKARO 9-11-4 G Bradley (5-4 fav) C Brooks, 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

DATO STAR beat SOLOMON'S DANCER (11lb better off) 10l in 20-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). MYSILV beat Alsun 1¼l in grade II Champion Hurdle Trial over course and distance (soft). EXPRESS GIFT 1¼l 2nd of 15 to Lonesome Train in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good) on penultimate start. STAUNCH FRIEND beat Hallopous 5l in grade II Bula Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good). Dec 1995: CASTLE SECRET 2¼l 9th of 15 to Jibbes The Kibbes in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft). CELESTIAL CHOIR beat Jubran 10l in 11-runner maiden hurdle at 5yr (2m, good). Selection: MYSILV (nap)

3.30 GLENGOYNE HIGHLAND MALT NOVICES CHASE TAMEROSIA SERIES
(Qualifier, £3,753 2m 4f) (4 runners)

1	31-1111	THE GREY MONK 6 (D,G,S) (A Dyer) C Tinkler 6-12-1	R Dunwoody	[6]
2	252125	LORD GYLLENE 9 (D) (S Clarke) S Brookshaw 6-11-11	J Railton	77
3	12.0026	DANGER BABY 7 (F,G) (Mouse Racing) D Williams 6-11-5	P Holley	–
4	542-646	NATIVE MONY 45 (T Hemmings) D Hammond 7-11-5	R Garrity	53

BETTING: 2-7 The Grey Monk, 11-4 Lord Gyllene, 14-1 Danger Baby, 33-1 Native Mony

1995: THE BOILER WHITE 7-11-5 D Meade (3-1) T Thomson Jones, 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

THE GREY MONK beat Know-No-No 12l in novice chase at Newcastle (3m 110yd, good to soft). LORD GYLLENE 13l 2nd of 5 to Auto Approach in grade II Dipper Novice Chase at Newcastle (3m 4f, good) on penultimate start. DANGER BABY 14¼l 5th of 15 to Ever Smile in handicap hurdle at Sandown (3m 6f, soft). NATIVE MONY 36l 7th of 8 to Cumbrian Challenge in novice chase at Wetherby (3m 1f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. Selection: THE GREY MONK

4.00 DUCHESS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,963, 2m) (9 runners)

1	200054	TEEN JAY 6 (D,F,G,S) (Gerard Associates) F Strange 6-11-11	R Strange	90
2	0162-6P	BOLD ACRE 32F (S) (Mrs M Morgan) D Burchell 6-11-9	D J Burchell	88
3	42-2232	ABBOT OF FURNESS 20 (C,D,S) (Lord Cavendish) G Richards 12-11-8	R Dunwoody	94
4	1314-06	COOL LUKE 48 (D,F,S) (B Storey) S Mellor 7-11-7	J Callaghan	[6]
5	121-0-00	IFALLELSEFAILS 41 (F) (R Gilbert) L Lungo 8-11-2	T Reed	87
6	4-40562	SAINT CIEL 37 (CD,G,S) (Tom Racing) F Jordan 8-10-12	J Lodder	92
7	36112	YUBRALEE 9 (D,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-10-5	D Bridgwater	96
8	420520	RAGGERTY 31 (D,S) (J & J Burke) Mrs A Whitehouse 5-10-2	W Humphreys	–
9	173-4F-	TEXAS SCRAMBLE 450 (CD,G,S) (Clarkes Wood & Wilson) E Baugh 7-10-0	Gary Lyons	–

Long handicap: Texas Scramble 9-13

BETTING: 7-4 Abbot Of Furness, 9-4 Yubralee, 5-1 Saint Ciel, 6-1 Teen Jay, 10-1 Bold Acre, 14-1 others

1995: BRAMBLEBERRY 6-11-1 R Guest (11-4) Mrs S Smith, 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

TEEN JAY 12¼l 4th to Bullet's Twitch in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good to soft). ABBOT OF FURNESS short-head 2nd to Top Cees in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 1f, good to soft). YUBRALEE 1¼l 2nd to Redcastle in handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m, heavy). Selection: SAINT CIEL

4.30 WALRUS HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs £1,495: 3m) (11 runners)

1	0104P-P	CHEEKY FOX 12P (B,G,S) (h O'Meara) Mrs C Fenton 10-12-7	D Sherlock (7)	75
2	1F61/4	CLARE MAN 9 (D,F,G,S) (M Wazenig) N Tandon-Davies 8-12-7	M Rimell (7)	–
3	1131-	COUNTRY TARROGEN 311 (D,G,S) (Mr. M Cooper) T Walford 7-11-7	N Wilson (5)	[6]
4	U1U2-	SIMPLY PERFECT 278 (S,S) (J Swindells) J Crossley 10-11-7	Miss A Swindells (7)	94
5	U3362-P	NICKELTON LAD 382 (F,G) (Miss B Palmer) D Williams 12-11-4	Miss S Higgins (7)	–
6	151-5	PROFESSOR LONGHAIR 7 (F,G) (H Davies) Mr. L Hicks 9-12-4	R Hicks (7)	93
7	PP/UFP-	SHAREEF STAR 338 (S) (F Wiles) F Mathews 8-12-0	Miss S Lea (7)	–
8	45-25	SYRIUS P TURNTABLE (F Wiles) M Pipe 10-12-0	P Murray (7)	–
9	/0/33P2-	THE MAJOR GENERAL 272 (R Ogden) G Richards 7-11-0	A Ogden (7)	95
10	121-2	WUDHAM 20 (F,G) (J Gwyn) Mrs J Gwyn 7-12-0	DOUBTFUL	–
11	0-	THORNHILL 854 (F Matthews) F Matthews 8-11-0	L Hicks (7)	–

BETTING: 7-4 Country Tarrogen, 9-4 Clare Man, 5-1 Simply Perfect, 7-1 The Major General, 10-1 Professor Longhair, 14-1 others

1995: EXTRA SPECIAL 10-11-7 A Ogden (5-4 fav) C Brooks, 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

CLARE MAN beat Know-No-No 12l in novice chase at Southwell (3m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. May 1994 COUNTRY TARROGEN beat Pollibco Pol 8l in novice hunter chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good). SIMPLY PERFECT 2l 2nd of 6 to Fitzevenchances in hunter chase at Wetherby (3m 4f 110yd, good) PROFESSOR LONGHAIR beat St Lawyer 2l in maiden hunter chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. THE MAJOR GENERAL 2¼l 2nd to Wheal Baker in maiden hunter chase at Cartmel (3m 2f, good). Selection: COUNTRY TARROGEN

5.00 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HURDLE (£3,235 2m) (20 runners)

1	030-041	EL RUBIO 48 (CD,S) (Mr. A Kemp) J Spearing 5-11-12	D Bridgwater	92
2	2-123F	PORPHYRIOS 86 (S) J Butterwith P Burke 5-11-12	R Dunwoody	96
3	3412	LA MENORQUINA 25F (D,G) (J Acton) D Moore 6-11-7	R Dawes	89
4	042	COLORFUL AMBITION 10 (F Carnsbury) Mr. A Sandars 6-11-6	J Railton	[6]
5	4	DARK STRANGER 90 (T Neal) C Brooks 5-11-5	D Gallagher	[6]
6	0	HIGHEST ROOTS 43 (BF) (Knight Hawks Print) M Pipe 5-11-5	J Evans	–
7	545-	IAN'S BID 281 (The Barnsdown Consortium) C Brooks 5-11-5	Mr A Wintle (7)	–
8	F	PAPARAZZO 76 (F Dunbar) G Moore 5-11-5	J Callaghan	–
9	0-00	SILVER PRIDE 34 (A Baynham) J Fitzgerald 5-11-5	M Dwyer	–
10		WHITE TONE (M Allen) Mrs M Reveley, 7-11-5	P Niven	–
11	13653	SHINING EDGE 9 (D,F) (G Sackaris) T Easterby 5-11-2	L Wyer	[6]
12	0	ANGRE VALLEY 97 (C Chapman) R Whitaker 7-11-2	D Bentley	–
13		DERRYVALE GIRL (D Cooper) T Dyer 5-11-2	B Storey	–
14	U	BOB'S PLOY 7 (BF) (Mrs M Estwell) M Tompkins 4-10-11	A Maguire	–
15		DOSSES DAN 196F (M Ephraim) B Preece 4-10-10	Gary Lyons	–
16	F	PASSAN 20 (MRDG Racing) M Hammond 4-10-10	R Garrity	–
17	0	MENSHAAR 41 (Mrs B Lungo) L Lungo 4-10-10	T Reed	–
18	3F	MR LOWRY 69 (D Brereton) L Sasse 4-10-10	S Wynne	75
19	6	PHARLY REEF 73F (W Gore) D Burchell 4-10-10	D J Burchell	–
20	0	OUT OF THE BLUE 48 (W Towell) M Easby 4-10-5	P McLoughlin	–

BETTING: 3-1 Porphyrios, 7-2 Bob's Ploy, 9-2 Dark Stranger, 8-1 Colorful Ambition, 12-1 El Rubio, White Tone, Paparazzo, 14-1 Shining Edge, 16-1 others

1995: SEACHANGE 6-11-6 J Titley (10-1) M Williamson, 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

EL RUBIO beat Hazel Gale 7¼l in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft). PORPHYRIOS 11¼l 3rd of 15 to Stanley Gayle in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, good). LA MENORQUINA 5l 2nd of 8 to Simply Dashing in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). COLORFUL AMBITION 15l 2nd of 18 to Chipped Out in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, soft). DARK STRANGER 61 4th to Shantica in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy). SHINING EDGE 3l 3rd to Dance Move For Luck in handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (3m 1f 110yd, good). MR LOWRY 7l 2nd of 7 to Varee in juvenile hurdle over course and distance (good to firm). Selection: DARK STRANGER

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
G Richards	34	115	29.6	D Gallagher	9	39	23.1
Mrs M Reveley	11	45	27.8	R Dunwoody	17	83	17.9
J Fitzgerald	14	52	26.9	A Maguire	11	55	20.0
C Brooks	8	31	25.8	L Wyer	10	55	18.2
N Tinkler-Davies	13	54	24.1	R Garrity	5	28	17.9
D Nicholson	10	42	23.8	M Dwyer	19	112	16.9

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.10 Mezzoramio. 2.40 Dancing Cavalier. 3.10 Stand Tall. 3.40 Allinson's Mate. 4.10 Chilibang Bang. 4.40 Philmist.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 Manabar.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 FARNSFIELD APPRENTICES MAIDEN HANDICAP (£2,095: 1m) (15 runners)

1	0-04	TAKESHI 17 (E Muir 4-10-0	R Pooles (7)	7
2	523-	BACKHANDER 202 M Wane 4-9-13	J Edmunds (5)	13
3	003-	HARRY'S TREAT 242 J Eyre 4-9-13	D Sweeney (3)	3
4	666-	MOST WELCOME NEWS 185 (B) J Jenkins 4-9-3	Sally Wall (7)	10
5	6/0	OPENING RANGE 20 H Berry 5-9-3	R Studholme (5)	9
6	-426	PARALISE 34 P Haslam 4-8-12	R Mullen (5)	6
7	0-34	MEZZORAMIO 18 (V) K Morgan 4-8-11	C Bolsover (5)	2
8	00-0	ILLUSTRE 45 G Fierro 4-8-11	J Williamson	15
9	2240	CAROL AGAIN 14 (BF) N Byrcott 4-8-8	T Ashley	11
10	0-00	SUPERCOOL 13 D Chapman 5-8-6	Jo Hannam (5)	5
11	-050	ARECIBO 14 J Pakes 4-8-6	G Faulkner	14
12	0/0	AUCKLAND CASTLE 39 S Bowring 5-8-3	J Dennis	4
13	0606	BRANSTON KRISTY 11 (B) C Smith 4-8-2	Angela Gallimore (5)	8
14	000-	CARMENDURA 168 E Alston 4-8-2	Ioan Wanda	12
15	00-0	AIR OF MYSTERY 20 (B) N Berry 4-7-10	Adelle Gibbons (5)	1

4-1 Takeshi, 9-2 Harry's Treat, 5-1 Backhander, 11-2 Mezzoramio, 10-1 Opening Range, Paralise, 12-1 others.

2.40 BEESTHORPE CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O £2,398: 1m 3f) (9)

1	1144	CHINA CASTLE 7 (C,G) P Haslam 9-3	J Fanbyne	1
2	-311	DANCING CAVALIER 7 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 8-13	F Lynch (7)	8
3	55-4	THREESOCKS 28 B Smart 5-6	R Cochrane	3
4	2202	ARCH ANGEL 11 (G) D Barech Davis 8-7	N Adams	5
5	2452	BUMBLEFOOT 2 (BF,G) M Johnston 8-1	T Williams	7
6	5-60	HAVANA HEIGHTS 37 J Eyre 5-1	J Dean	9
7	60	BELACQUA 14 D Chapman 7-13	L Charnock	4
8	0-0	VALJESS 17 G O'Brien 7-13	G Bardwell	6
9	6-5	KAI'S LADY 21 S Campion 7-12	P Fessey (5)	2

11-4 Dancing Cavalier, 3-1 China Castle, 7-2 Arch Angel, 4-1 Bumblefoot, 9-2 Threesocks, 16-1 Havana Heights, 20-1 others.

3.10 FARNDON HANDICAP
(£2,832: 6f) (5)

1	/41	TAME DEER 32 (CD,G) M Chapman 4-10-0	D R McCabe (3)	2
2	3552	AT THE SAVOY 11 (CD,G) T Barron 5-9-8	Kimberley Hart (7)	3
3	-312	STAND TALL 11 (CD,BF,G) C Thornton 4-9-8	D McKeown	5
4	0165	BOLD ARISTOCRAT 7 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 5-9-0	F Lynch (7)	1
5	50-0	ROCKY TWO 15 (G) P Howling 5-8-12	R Cochrane	4

5-2 Stand Tall, 3-1 Bold Aristocrat, 7-2 At The Savoy, 4-1 Tame Deer, 5-1 Rocky Two

3.40 RAVENSHEAD HANDICAP (£3,485: 7f) (8)

1	-321	PINE RIDGE LAD 18 (CD,F,G) J Eyre 6-10-0	R Lappin	7
2	-600	LORD SIXY 9 (F,G,S) A Bailey 5-9-3	Angela Gallimore (7)	1
3	0043	NASHAAT 11 (CD,F,G,S) M Chapman 8-9-3	D R McCabe (3)	4
4	00-5	ALLINSON'S MATE 7 (B,CD,F,G) T Barron 8-9-2	J Fortune	5
5	0432	MARABAR 10 (G) M Polglase 4-8-0	M Larsen	3
6	00-5	WHAT A NIGHTMARE 24 (CD,F,G) P Howling 4-8-13	J Dunn	6
7	-320	HI ROCK 13 (BF,F) M Camacho 4-7-10	L Charnock	8
8	3350	INDIANA 4 (V,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-7-10	P Fessey (5)	2

9-4 Pine Ridge Lad, 3-1 Marabar, 7-2 Nashaat, 9-2 Allinson's Mate, 8-1 Hi Rock, 10-1 Indiana, 12-1 others.

4.10 WELLOW SELLING STAKES
(Qualifier: 3-Y-O: £2,085: 7f) (4)

1	-515	CHILIBANG BANG 21 (CD,G,S) J Berry 8-13	P Roberts (5)	4
2	3431	EPIPETTE 7 (C,G) N Byrcott 8-13	F Lynch (7)	2
3	000-	BROCKVILLE BAIRN 172 Mrs A Swinbank 8-11	J Fortune	3
4	5024	VICTORIA SIOUX 8 J Pickering 8-6	J Quinn	1

5-4 Chilibang Bang, 7-4 Victoria Sioux, 5-2 Epipette, 16-1 Brockville Bairn.

4.40 THORGATON HANDICAP (£2,900: 1m 4f) (10)

1	54-1	SUVALI 13 (C,G) M Meaghar 4-10-0	J Fortune	7
2	3-23	ALZOOMIO 32 (BF) J Glover 4-9-10	Victoria Appleby (7)	1
3	2153	NO SUBMISSION 11 (C,D,S) D Chapman 10-9-8	A Culhane	10
4	-053	BACKVIEW 18 (D,G) B Llewellyn 4-9-5	T Williams	9
5	5-65	BOLD PURSUIT 11 (CD,F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 7-9-3	F Lynch (7)	8
6	1-52	AMISTOP 35 (C,G)-R Akehurst 4-9-1	T Ashley (7)	4
7	/0/	HEATHYARDS BOY 401J (S) R Hollinshead 5-8-12	R Cochrane	6
8	0011	MAZILLA 4 (V,C,G) A Streeter 4-8-11 (Sex)	F Norton	2
9	000-	PHILMIST 99 (B,CD,G) W Elsey 4-8-8	N Kennedy	3
10	2216	MR MORIARTY 14 (CD,G) S Bowring 5-8-6	C Teague (5)	5

3-1 Amistop, 4-1 Sheaky, 9-2 No Submission, 5-1 Bold Pursuit, Mazilla, 7-1 Backview, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Meaghar, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; R Akehurst, 6 from 21, 28.6%, M Johnston, 33 from 181, 18.2%, M Camacho, 16 from 99, 16.2%; J Fitzgerald, 20 from 132, 15.2%, T Barron, 34 from 229, 14.8%

JOCKEYS: Kimberley Hart, 8 winners from 26 rides, 30.8%; F Lynch, 7 from 41, 17.1%, J Fortune, 21 from 135, 15.4%, R Cochrane, 25 from 174, 14.6%; C Teague, 18 from 129, 14.0%; R Lappin, 7 from 50, 14.0%.

Mix-up at Lingfield

THERE was an astonishing mix-up at Lingfield Park yesterday when a horse won which should have been withdrawn. Northern Trial landed the Barnaby Rudge Claiming Stakes at 10-1 after the stewards ordered the horse's visor to be removed at the start — an action which the stewards' secretary, Terence Brennan, admitted was incorrect.

KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER

1.50 Chai-Yo. 2.20 Father Sky. 2.50 Cool Dawn. 3.20 Silverfort Lad. 3.50 Super Tactics. 4.20 Call Equiname. 4.50 Our Slimbridge.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.50 OUR SLIMBRIDGE.

Carl Evans: 2.50 Teaplanter.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
7.30AM INSPECTION

1.50 KEMPTON PARK NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,502: 2m) (12 runners)

101	-341	CHAI-YO 8 (S) J Old 6-11-4	G Upton	[6]
102	/0-0	BLACK STAG 13 M Wilkinson 7-11-0	R Supple	–
103	2-U4	DECIDE YOURSELF 35 T Thomson Jones 6-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	93
104		FELLOO T George 7-11-0	R Johnson (3)	–
105		FRED JEFFREY A Turnell 5-11-0	C Rae (7)	–
106	-120	KNIGHTSBRIDGE SCOT 42 (F) N Babbage 5-11-0	S McNeill	91
107	45-0	ON THE FLY 100 M Tompkins 5-11-0	A P McCoy	–
108	0-P	RAMBLING ON 97 C Drewe 6-11-0	R Farrant	–
109		TYPYNE IN MOTION C Brooks 5-11-0	S Bradley	–
110	505	TROUVAILLE 45 A Turnell 5-11-0	L Harvey	94
111	60/	URICLE ALGY 684 Miss H Knight 7-11

هكذا في الاصل

Sri Lanka cheered by style of victory

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN COLOMBO

TO GET some idea of the scope of this cricket World Cup, imagine the distance from London to St Petersburg. That, more or less, is the distance that separates Sri Lanka from Peshawar, where England played Holland yesterday. Geographically, as well as logistically, this competition is a mighty undertaking.

It would be wrong to suggest the Sri Lankans feel cut off from the tournament — or "tourney", as newspapers here call it. They consider themselves very much involved in its organisation, deprived only in the sense that neither Australia nor West Indies would come to play here.

However, the fact is, Sri Lanka is cut off physically from India and Pakistan and, unlike those countries, their team have yet to win the World Cup. Even the grandest optimists are not expecting to win it this time, although Sri Lankan cricket-lovers are entitled to think that their team can reach the semi-finals.

If they top group A, they should play either England or New Zealand in Faisalabad — and they will not worry too much about that prospect.

Islanders were happy yesterday, not just with the six-wicket win over Zimbabwe but the manner in which it was achieved. The radiant batting of de Silva and Gurusinha lit up a land that is still mourning the loss of so many lives in the suicide bombing here two weeks ago.

They are too gentle a people to go in for crowing, and the newspapers kept the victory in proportion. They know full well that the game against India in Delhi next Saturday will present a stiffer test, and help to determine which team tops the group.

India's comprehensive defeat of West Indies did nothing to change the widespread feeling that, of the three host nations, they appear the most likely winners. Just to be involved, after two weeks of doubt, withdrawal, charge and counter-charge, is a boon for the Sri Lankans.

As de Silva said: "It is always better to get the points by winning than by accepting walk-overs." What a good win, too. They vanquished Zimbabwe with 13 overs to spare, after de Silva and Gurusinha set about the bowling like men released from the grip of frustration.

For de Silva, who spent a productive season at Kent last year, it was a true test of form and fitness. He was troubled on the recent tour of Australia by a thigh strain that continues to bother him, and temporarily mislaid his touch. There was little wrong with his strokeplay on Wednesday, as he hit two sixes in a sparkling innings of 91, the best score by a Sri Lanka player in a World Cup tournament.

He does not feel that the enforced break caused by Australia's refusal to play here has necessarily been a handicap to the side.

"To have a break after a long tour of Australia was quite good for us," he said. "We are confident we can do well but there is nothing more we can do apart from look forward to the next game."

How far Sri Lanka go depends largely on how well they can support Chaminda Vaas, a left-arm swing bowler of some promise. At 22, time is on his side, and it should not be long before an English county shows interest. Now that de Silva has alerted eyes to Sri Lankan cricketers, others will follow his path in time.

Their batting strength hardly needs underlining, and bodes well for a competition that has already seen exciting hitting from Tendulkar, Kirsten and Astle. Day by day this World Cup is taking shape and Sri Lanka, with a side regrouping after the disagreeable events in Australia, intend to play a full part.



Zuiderent, still a schoolboy, strokes his way to a half-century for Holland yesterday

Coach seeks assistance to build on Dutch courage

Simon Wilde's WORLD CUP EXTRAS

The calls by the Holland coach and captain yesterday for the international and English cricket authorities to encourage the game in their country touched on a sensitive subject. The Dutch believe the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) is guilty of dragging its heels over their development — the future of the game in all European countries is now within the TCCB's remit — and suspect this may continue until the next World Cup.

That was the sub-text of what David Trist, the Holland coach, was saying yesterday. The Dutch are desperate for administrative and financial help. Although they will receive £150,000 from competing in the World Cup, that is a drop in the ocean for a country without turf pitches, indoor nets or a central ground. As amateurs, they have few chances of exposure to top-class cricket. After years of requests, the TCCB agreed to Holland playing in one of its domestic one-day competitions — the NatWest Trophy — only last year.

"Each Test country's sphere of influence is still being defined," an International Cricket Council spokesman said yesterday. "But some Test countries have been quick off the mark. The Asians are encouraging the smaller nations in their region to stage a tournament and allowing the winners to go through to the Asia Cup. We would like England to do something similar for Europe. Further down the line, they may want to give them financial help."

Star pupil

Even as it is, England's demon bowlers have difficulty dismissing Dutch teenagers and almost acquired another unwanted record in Peshawar yesterday. In stroking his way to 54, Bas Zuiderent, who took time off school to take part in the competition, failed by only 42 days to become the youngest player to score a World Cup fifty.

The record remains with another promising tyro, Sachin Tendulkar, who was 18 years and 315 days old when he first scored a half-century for India during the last World Cup, in 1992.

United nations

There comes a thread of hope for England with the suggestion in a Pakistan daily newspaper, *The News*, that the West Indies team should be disbanded and broken up into island sides.

The article takes as its premise the point that West Indies is a conglomeration of countries. "There is no such thing as a West Indies in the Olympics, the football World Cup or any other sport," it said. "The quicker this is set right the better. Yes, a team will disappear, but a wrong must be set right."

Nice try *The News*, but this will not wash. In picking a cricket team, West Indies draw on a population of just five million, which already gives them a smaller catchment area than any Test team bar New Zealand (Pakistan's population is a cool 136 million). And would a dismantled West Indies assist England? Not really. In recent years they have lost to Windward Islands (twice) and Barbados.

Out of favour

Michael Slater, who took runs galore off England last winter, is no longer considered good enough to make the Australia side. Mark Taylor gives the reason that he has not been having the best of seasons in the one-day game, which could equally be said of most of the England side. Here are some other foreigners unable to win places in their World Cup sides whom England would bite off hands for: Jimmy Adams, Paul Adams, Basit Ali, Greg Blewett, Dean Jones, Mark Kasprowicz, Tom Moody, Phil Simmons and Andrew Symonds.

WILLS WORLD CUP 1996

WORLD CUP DETAILS

Top four in each group qualify for quarter-finals. Two points for a win, one for a tie and no result.

GROUP A

	P	W	T	L	NR	Pts
Sri Lanka	2	2	0	0	0	4
India	2	2	0	0	0	4
West Indies	2	1	0	1	0	2
Kenya	1	0	0	1	0	0
Australia	1	0	0	1	0	0
Zimbabwe	2	0	0	2	0	0

RESULTS: West Indies beat Zimbabwe by 6 wkts, Sri Lanka beat Australia, forfeit; India beat Kenya by 7 wkts, Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 6 wkts, India beat West Indies by 5 wkts

FIXTURES: Today: Australia v Kenya, Visakhapatnam. Feb 25: Sri Lanka v West Indies, Colombo*. Feb 26: Kenya v Zimbabwe, Pune. Feb 27: Australia v India, Bombay. Feb 29: Kenya v West Indies, Pune. Mar 1: Australia v Zimbabwe, Nagpur. Mar 2: India v Sri Lanka, Delhi. Mar 4: West Indies v Australia, Jaipur. Mar 5: India v Zimbabwe, Kanpur. Mar 6: Sri Lanka v Kenya, Kandy

* West Indies say they will forfeit this match

GROUP B

	P	W	T	L	NR	Pts
South Africa	2	2	0	0	0	4
New Zealand	3	2	0	1	0	4
England	3	2	0	1	0	4
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holland	1	0	0	1	0	0
UAE	2	0	0	2	0	0

RESULTS: New Zealand beat England by 11 runs, South Africa beat UAE by 169 runs; New Zealand beat Holland by 119 runs, England beat UAE by 8 wkts; South Africa beat New Zealand by 5 wkts, England beat Holland by 49 runs

FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Pakistan v UAE, Gujranwala. Feb 25: England v South Africa, Rawalpindi. Feb 26: Pakistan v Holland, Lahore. Feb 27: New Zealand v UAE, Faisalabad. Feb 29: Pakistan v South Africa, Karachi. Mar 1: Holland v UAE, Lahore. Mar 3: Pakistan v England, Karachi. Mar 5: Holland v South Africa, Rawalpindi. Mar 6: Pakistan v New Zealand, Lahore

QUARTER-FINALS: Mar 9: A1 v B4, Faisalabad; A3 v B2, Bangalore. Mar 11: B1 v A4, Karachi; B3 v A2, Madras.

SEMI-FINALS: Mar 13: Faisalabad winner v Bangalore winner, Calcutta. Mar 14: Karachi winner v Madras winner, Chandigarh

FINAL: Mar 17: Lahore

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) °C	Last snow
AUSTRIA							
Igls	10	45	good	powder	closed	fair -5	22/2
(Good skiing in all Innsbruck areas; light snow showers)							
Kitzbühel	20	110	powder	powder	fair	snow -3	22/2
(Powdery snow on pistes at all altitudes)							
Obergurgl	40	110	good	powder	good	fair -8	22/2
(Superb skiing conditions: fresh powder available)							
Söll	20	70	good	powder	fair	fair -3	22/2
(Good skiing in most areas, plenty of powder available)							
FRANCE							
Alpe d Huez	120	340	good	powder	good	sun -15	21/2
(Great conditions throughout the resort: very cold!)							
Les Arcs	115	220	powder	powder	good	snow -9	22/2
(Excellent skiing on all runs and at all altitudes)							
Avoriaz	200	240	good	varied	good	snow -14	22/2
(Excellent skiing throughout the Portes du Soleil)							
Tignes	140	240	good	powder	good	snow -10	22/2
(Mixed visibility with some snow; sunshine forecast)							
SWITZERLAND							
C Montana	60	260	good	varied	warm	cloud -5	22/2
(All but lowest pistes excellent; sunny at altitude)							
Klosters	50	140	good	powder	good	cloud -5	22/2
(Great skiing everywhere; all lifts open)							
Mürren	75	160	good	powder	good	snow -8	22/2
(All runs open and good including Kanonenrohr link)							
Villars	70	130	good	powder	good	snow -5	22/2
(Great piste skiing in variable visibility)							
UNITED STATES							
Aspen	170	215	good	heavy	good	snow -4	22/2
(Over 100cm of new snow in the last two days: superb!)							

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper; art - artificial.

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DIAL DIRECT

Duff uses power of thought to end Bond's challenge

BY GORDON ALLAN

HUGH DUFF advanced to the semi-finals of the Churchill Insurance world indoor bowls singles with a 5-7, 7-6, 7-0, 4-7, 7-1 win over Ian Bond at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday. Duff, the 1988 champion, will now play Andy Thomson, the holder, today for a place in the final on Sunday. Duff, of Scotland, has been consulting a sports psychologist. "My attitude was wrong," he said. "I was going out on the green taking too much for granted, and not thinking enough about my shots, and it was affecting the rest of my game."

There was psychological pressure on him against Bond, the English champion. Bond took the first set and had a set lie at 6-6 in the second until Duff drew the shot with the last bowl of the end. "That was a turning point," Duff said. "If I'd gone two sets down, I'd have been in a lot of bother."

With Bond temporarily losing his touch, the third set was soon over. Duff led 4-0 in the fourth but Bond clawed back to tie the match. Duff also led 4-0 in the fifth set but did not let it slip, although Bond saved a set lie at 4-0.

Bond said: "Hugh didn't allow me to play as well as I did against Ian Taylor in the last round, but I was delighted to get as far as the quarter-finals in a big event like this. I'm hoping to win the British Isles singles next month and maybe get into the England team that way."

"Ian's got a great future," Duff said. "I played in England for two years and I know how hard it is to win the national singles, as he did."

David Gourlay Jr, of Scotland, reached the semi-finals, and a match with Mervyn King, after beating Greg Harlow 7-6, 7-2, 7-1.

The closest struggle came in the first set. Harlow, 5-4 down after six ends, counted a double but missed the possibility of a set-winning third and a relieved Gourlay hit back with a double on the next end to snatch the set 7-6.

Harlow said: "I was disappointed not to take that one, but my real problems came over the next two sets where I failed consistently to get my opening two bowls close to the jack." "That is definitely the best I've played at Preston," Gourlay said.

When the time comes to rerun the outstanding shots of the championship, the drive played with spectacular effect by Wynne Richards in the third set against Thomson on Wednesday night will rank high. Thomson's four bowls were grouped round the jack; Richards, 3-0 down, had three bowls two yards behind, and was facing a set lie.

He fired and hit the bullseye. Thomson's bowls flew to all points of the compass, leaving Richards with four shots. Richards lost the set and eventually the match, but the shot itself was a winner. There is a large element of luck in the firing shot. The usual intention is to kill the end. The one played by Richards had, for him, the perfect result.

Olympic champion returns in style

DEBORAH COMPAGNONI, the Olympic champion, completed a remarkable comeback from injury by winning the gold medal in the women's giant slalom at the Alpine skiing world championships in Sierra Nevada, Spain, yesterday. The Italian, 25, lying fourth after the first leg, coolly saw off a surprise Swiss challenge with a flowing second run over a long and testing course to finish in a combined time of 2min 10.74sec.

Karin Roten, 20, from Switzerland, who has not won a leading race, claimed the silver medal in 2:11.09 after her compatriot, Sonja Nef, fastest on the first leg, skied out at the top of the course. Martina Ertl, of Germany, lying a disappointing fourteenth after the first leg, produced a splendid second run to win the bronze medal in 2:11.44. Her second-leg time of 1:02.67 was the fastest by almost a second. Emma Carrick-Anderson opened the British women's team challenge by taking twentieth place. Shona Robertson, making her debut in a leading championship, was 24th.

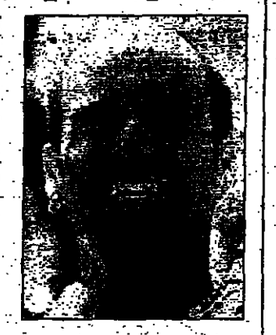
Pearce in last four

SNOOKER: Nick Pearce, ranked No 204 in the world, completed a surprise 5-2 victory over Dave Harold, the No 13 seed, to reach the semi-finals of the Sweater Shop International Open at Swindon yesterday (Phil Yates writes). Pearce, a former male model, had never in four years as a professional previously been further than the qualifying stages of a ranking tournament. Also through to the semi-finals is Alain Robidoux, of Canada, a 5-2 winner over Stephen Lee.

England near finals

BADMINTON: England's women won their group, scored their third victory and moved within one success of qualifying for the Uber Cup finals with a 4-1 triumph against Canada in Prague yesterday. When Joanne Wright returned home with flu, Sarah Hardaker, 20, made her Uber Cup debut, completing, with Julie Bradbury, England's 3-1 winning lead with a win over Denyse Julien and Milaine Cloutier. Peter Bush made a winning Thomas Cup debut as England's men beat India 5-0.

Jensen intercepts Agassi



TENNIS: The efforts of André Agassi, right, to return to the top of the world rankings suffered a setback in Memphis on Wednesday when he lost 6-2, 6-4 in the first round to Luke Jensen, the American ranked No 419. Pete Sampras, who recently regained the No 1 place, beat Richey Reneberg 6-3, 7-5 in the second round to secure a meeting with Greg Rusedski, who overcame Michael Tebbutt 6-7, 7-6, 7-5 yesterday.

One that got away

GOLF: A missed putt from 12 inches cost José Coceres, of Argentina, the outright lead on the opening day of the FNB Players' Championship in Durban, where Wayne Westner, of South Africa, and Stephen Amies, of Trinidad, matched the Argentinian's six-under-par 66. Coceres's six birdies included two putts of more than 25 feet, but he missed a tap-in at the 8th. "Why it wouldn't go in I just don't know," Coceres said. "I could have made 65 but I cannot be angry because I started the round thinking about making the cut."

Australians accused

RUGBY LEAGUE: Maurice Lindsay, chief executive of the Rugby Football League, yesterday accused the Australian Rugby League (ARL) of sabotaging the Super League World Nines in Fiji. The ARL prevented three players, including Gary Connolly and Martin Hall, both of Wigan, from playing after threatening legal action. Connolly and Hall have signed for the ARL but are under contract to Wigan. England won their opening three games, 18-4 against Tonga, 34-0 against Morocco and 4-0 against Italy.

Confident Capriati

TENNIS: Jennifer Capriati made further progress in her long-awaited comeback yesterday by defeating Barbara Schett, of Austria, 7-6, 6-1 in the second round of the WTA tournament in Essen. The American, who is back on the circuit after an absence of 2½ years, recovered from a 4-0 deficit in the first set and dominated the second after losing the first game. Capriati was in exuberant mood after her success. "I'm in better shape than ever," she said. "I'm glad I'm back."

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

PRAGUE: Thomas Cup: Second round, Group W: Denmark 5 Austria 0, Sweden 5 Switzerland 0. Group X: England 5 Poland 0, Finland 4 India 1. Group Y: Holland 3 Germany 2, Russia 5 Belorussia 0. Group Z: Sweden 5 Norway 0; Canada 5 Switzerland 0. Uber Cup: Second round: Scotland 4 Wales 1. Group X: England 4 Bulgaria 1, Canada 5 France 0. England 5 France 0; Canada 4 Bulgaria 1. Group Y: Holland 4 Belorussia 1, Russia 3 Germany 2; Holland 4 Germany 1, Russia 5 Belarus 0. Group Z: Sweden 5 Switzerland 0; Ukraine 4 Hungary 1.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 98 Washington 92; New York 113 Detroit 110 (OT), Miami 66 Philadelphia 57; Orlando 99 Indiana 97; Minnesota 120 Houston 101; Dallas 93 Sacramento 91; New Jersey 94 Milwaukee 92 (OT); Phoenix 120 Boston 107; Golden State 95 San Antonio 92; LA Lakers 112 LA Clippers 108

WARE: International match: England 73 (Bridgnall 22, Brown 18, White 12) Hungary 69 (Cross 12, Ozgler 12, Sitku 12)

BOWLS

PRESTON: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships. Singles: Quarter-final: A Thomson (Eng) bt W Richards (Eng) 6-7, 4-7, 7-6, 7-2, 7-4, H Duff (Scot) bt I Bond (Eng) 5-7, 7-6, 7-0, 4-7, 7-1, D Gourlay Jr (Scot) bt G Harlow (Eng) 7-6, 7-2, 7-1

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Aston Villa 0 Arsenal 0 (aet; agg 2-2, Aston Villa won on away goals rule)

FA CUP: Fifth round: Leeds 0 Port Vale 0, Grimsby 0 Chelsea 0

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Manchester United 2 Everton 0; West Ham United 2 Newcastle United 0

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Derby 1 Luton 1, Wolverhampton 2 Leicester 3. Second division: Swindon 2 Brentford 2

BELLS SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: East Fife 7 Montrose 0. Third division: Alloa 1 Caledonian Thistle 2. Postponed: Alloa v East Stirling; Cowdenbeath v Livingston

OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT: South America zone: Ecuador 3 Colombia 3 (at Mar del Plata, Argentina); Argentina 2 Chile 1 (at Acuna, Argentina), Brazil 3 Paraguay 1 (at Tandil, Argentina)

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL: Portugal 3 Germany 3 (in Porto)

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Israel 4 Lithuania 2 (in Tel Aviv); Portugal 1 Germany 2 (in Oporto)

BELGIAN CUP: Quarter-final: Cercle Bruges 2 Beerschot 1 (aet)

SPANISH CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Valencia 3 Atletico Madrid 0

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Under-18: Belgium 2 England 3. Under-16: Belgium 3 Scotland 1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Leigh 3 Atherton LR 1. Postponed: Farsley Celtic v Lincoln United. President's Cup: First round replay: Postponed: Boston v Alfreton

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Corby 3 Grantham 4. Southern division: Forest Green 1 Yate 0; Dr Martens Cup: Third round: Salisbury 2 Hungerford 1

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hitchin 1 Hayes 3. Third division: Postponed: Harlow v Hertford

LEAGUE OF WALES: Postponed: Cemaes Bay v Connah's Quay; Caernarvon v Briton Ferry; Tan Pentro v Alan Lido

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Derry 1 Shamrock 1

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Second round: Limerick 1 Sligo 3

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 0 Norwich 2, Charlton 2 Luton 0; Crystal Palace v Arsenal abandoned, Oxford Utd 1 Bristol City 1. Postponed: Ipswich v Wimbledon. Second division: Postponed: Birmingham v Plymouth, Bath v Newport

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: West Bromwich J Tranmere 1. Postponed: Leeds v Blackburn. Second division: Barnsley 1 Huddersfield 0, Burnley 5 Coventry 1; Preston 0 Manchester City 0, Rotherham 1 York 1. Postponed: Bradford v Sunderland; Grimsby v Blackpool; Port Vale v Hull. Third division: Doncaster 0 Wrexham 2; Scarborough 0 Carlisle 3. Postponed: Bury v Lincoln, Chesterfield v Wigan; Rochdale v Scunthorpe, Stockport County v Walsall

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Skelmersdale 3 Nantwich 3

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Bowers v Stansted

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Crook v Consett; Ferryhill v RTM Newcastle, Whickham v Billingham Synthonia; Whitley v Gateshead

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Soham v Halstead

SCHOOLS MATCH: Inter-Town challenge. Postponed: Manchester v Bury.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Shelbourne v Bohemians (7.45), Athlone v Dundalk (8.0)

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: West Ham v Portsmouth

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Adidas International Under-15 Victory Shield: England v Northern Ireland (at Middlesbrough, 7.15)

Read Trophy: Berkshire v Oxfordshire Farmer Park; English Schools Under-19 Trophy: Sheffield College v Hugh Pavenant College, Nottingham (2.0); English Girls Vimto Under-16 Trophy: West Bridgford, Nottingham v Macclesfield, South Yorkshire (2.0)

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN LEAGUE. Third division: Tredegar v Pontypool

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Wigan, St Patricks v Mayfield (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Buccaneer League: Newcastle v Leicester (2.0)

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships (Preston)

HOCKEY: Women's tour match: Wolving v Russia Under-21 (Bingham, 7.0)

SNOOKER: Sweater Shop International Open (Swindon)

SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (Leeds)

TENNIS: LTA men's satellite tournament (Eastbourne); LTA women's challenger tournament (Redbridge)

GOLF

DURBAN: FNB Players' Championship: Leading first-round scores (South Africa unless stated): 66, W Westner, J Coceres (Arg), S Ames (Trin), 67, P Friedlander (Swed), G Orr (GB), R McFarlane (GB), W Simuno 68; D van Staden, B Vaughan (US), P Johansson (Swe), C Suneson (GB), S Bottomley (GB), 69; M Archer (GB), P Edelsten (GB), A Raistrick, E Els, T Dodds (Nam), M McLean (GB), C Rocca (It), P McGinley (Ire). D Terblanche, D Fenerty (Ire), I Garrido (Sp), 70; O Karlsson (Swe), A Hunter (GB), T Johnstone (Zim), P Broadhurst (GB), B Lincoln, A Sherborne (GB), M Mouland (GB), D James, S Stewart (Ger), J Johnson (US)

SYDNEY: Canon Challenge: Leading first-round scores (Australia unless stated): 67; D Branscon, T Teshima (Japan), J Senden 68; M Goggin 69; B King, B Forrester, G Kenny, M Allen, M Clayton, R Stackhouse, S Scahill (NZ), L Hunter, S Tarr, C Jones, P Lonard, 70; C Parry, N Smith, P O'Malley, J Kay (Can), P Senior, T Power 71; A Pavey, A Painter, D Grenfell, D Dunakey (US), G Simpson, J O'Keefe (US), M Long (NZ), S Conran, D Laurie, S Laycock, 72; H Tanimaga (Japan), S Leaney, Y Kuramoto (Japan), M Harwood, R Buczynsky, R Allenby, J Wagner, M Wheelhouse (NZ), P Fitzgibbon, T Suzuki (Japan), D Cole, D Iwaske-Smith, D Watson (GB), P Easterling (NZ), R Beadnell, R Pampling, W Dodd. Other scores: 73; J L Guerry (Fr), S Gardner (US), 74; M Colandro (US), 75; B Wright (US), 76; T Yoneyama (Japan), 79; B Jackson (GB), P Moss (US).

NAIROBI: Kenya Open: Leading first-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 64; M Krantz (Swe), 67; R Russell, M Olander (Swe), J Lamb Jr (Ken), 68; S Pusari, P Hamson, A Clapp, J Healey, M Miller, M Pendanes (Fr), R Victor (Fr), F Larsson (Swe), M Williams (Zim), 69; W Bennett, G Clark, R Lee, D Jones, R Jacquelin (Fr), M Santi (It), J Kvando (Ken)

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Old Loughtonians 4 WRAF 0

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Hartford 5 Montreal 3, Buffalo 6 Pittsburgh 3, Florida 4 New Jersey 1, Tampa Bay 3 Toronto 2 (OT), Vancouver 5 Winnipeg 3, Edmonton 7 Los Angeles 2, Anaheim 4 Boston 3.

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Humberside 6 Milton Keynes 8, Sheffield 5 Cardiff 2. First division: Manchester 11 Blackburn 3

RUGBY LEAGUE

SUVA, Fiji: Super League World Nines: Pool A: Australia 30 Western Samoa 0; Scotland 12 United States 6; Western Samoa 8 Scotland 4; Australia 30 United States 16; Australia 26 Scotland 4; Western Samoa 14 United States 6. Pool B: England 18 Tonga 4; Italy 18 Morocco 0; England 24 Morocco 0; Tonga 30 Italy 4; England 4 Italy 0; Tonga 32 Morocco 0. Pool C: New Zealand 22 France 4; Ireland 20 Japan 4; New Zealand 42 Japan 0; Ireland 18 France 14; New Zealand 20 Ireland 0; France 16 Japan 0. Pool D: Papua New Guinea 4 Fiji 0; Wales 10 Cook Islands 8; Papua New Guinea 14 Wales 12; Fiji 10 Cook Islands 4; Papua New Guinea 16 Cook Islands 10; Wales 8 Fiji 6.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Newport 28 Pontypool 22. Postponed: Cambridge Univ v Army; Llanelwedd v Cardigan; Newcastle v Newcastle Univ, Nottingham v RAF, Oxford Univ v Penguins

SKIING

SIERRA NEVADA, Spain: World championships: Women: Giant slalom: 1, D Compagnoni (It) (1mn 7.09sec, 1:03.65) 2mn 10.74sec; 2, K Roten (Swiz) (1:08.68, 1:04.41) 2:11.09; 3, M Ertl (Ger) (1:08.77, 1:02.67) 2:11.44; 4, A Wachter (Austria) (1:07.07, 1:04.83) 2:11.90; 5, K Seizinger (Ger) (1:07.56, 1:04.39) 2:11.95; 6, I Kostner (It) (1:07.75, 1:04.42) 2:12.17; 7, B Heeb (Liech) (1:08.22, 1:04.77) 2:12.99; 8, A Ibarra (Sp) (1:08.67, 1:04.34) 2:13.01; 9, M Dorfmeister (Austria) (1:08.02, 1:05.01) 2:13.03; 10, M Forkert (Swe) (1:08.12, 1:05.42) 2:13.54; 11, U Hrovat (Slovenia) (1:08.88, 1:04.95) 2:13.83; 12, A Galindo (Sp) (1:08.73, 1:05.13) 2:13.86; 20, E Carrick-Anderson (GB) (1:09.77, 1:07.01) 2:16.78; 24, S Robertson (GB) (1:13.83, 1:10.94) 2:24.77.

SNOOKER

SWINDON: Sweater Shop International Open (England unless stated): Third round: D Harold bt J Ferguson 5-0; J Higgins (Scot) bt N Foulds 5-1; D Finbow bt G Ponting 5-2. Quarter-finals: A Robidoux (Can) bt S Lee (Eng) 5-2.

TENNIS

ANTWERP: Men's tournament: First round: M Stich (Ger) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-4, 7-6. Second round: R Krajicek (Holl) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 6-4, 6-4; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt C Pistros (Fr) 6-4, 7-6; R Furlan (It) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 6-4, 7-6; F Clavet (Sp) bt L Bjorkman (Swe) 7-6, 6-3; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt A Volkov (Rom) 6-3, 6-3; M Rosset (Switz) bt A Volkov (Russ) 6-3, 6-3; B Becker (Ger) bt A Olhovskiy (Russ) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1

MEMPHIS: Men's tournament (US unless stated): Second round: P Sampras bt R Reneberg 6-3, 7-6; L Jensen bt A Agassi 6-2, 6-4; M Chang bt S Draper (Aus) 6-3, 5-7, 6-2; J Novak (Cz) bt J Grabb 7-6, 4-6, 6-1; G Rusedski (GB) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 6-7, 7-6, 7-5; T Enqvist (Swe) bt K Evernis 7-6, 3-6, 7-6; M Rios (Chile) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 6-3, 6-3; M Washington bt J Krostak (Slovakia) 7-6, 6-3; T Woodbridge (Aus) bt G Stafford (SA) 6-4, 6-7, 6-1; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt C Adams 7-5, 6-2; B Steven (NZ) bt L Roux (Fr) 6-3, 3-7, 6-4; B Black (Zim) bt N Marques (Por) 6-3, 6-4.

ESSEN: Women's tournament: Second round: J Novotna (Cz) bt M Strandlund (Swe) 0-6, 6-4, 6-1; E Callens (Bel) bt K Kschwendt (Ger) 6-2, 6-4; R Stubbs (Aus) bt C Porsch (Ger) 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

OKLAHOMA CITY: Women's tournament (US unless stated): First round: ES Cecci bt L Lee 6-4, 6-1; C Rubin bt K Mateeva (Bul) 7-6, 6-1; A Frazier bt A Grossman 2-6, 6-2, 6-2; B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) bt L Wild 6-2, 6-3. Second round: M Drake (Can) bt S Jeyaseelan (Can) 7-6, 6-7, 6-3; E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt A Gavaldon (Mex) 3-6, 6-1, 6-4; L Raymond bt L Porun 6-1, 6-2; C Rubin (US) bt K Maleeva (Bul) 7-6, 6-1.

EASTBOURNE: LTA men's indoor satellite tournament (GB unless stated): Second round: D Flach (US) bt G Galimberti (It) 6-2, 6-4; L Milligan bt R Koenig (SA) 6-2, 7-5; V Lukko (Fin) bt J Delgado 6-2, 6-1; S Humphries (US) bt C Beecher 6-1, 3-6, 6-4; D Sapsford bt T Spinks 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; I Hausberger (Switz) bt A Richardson 7-6, 3-6, 7-6; O Stanoytchev (Bul) bt M Navarra (It) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3; M Rush (Ven) bt S Groen (Holl) 6-3, 6-3; L Milligan bt R Koenig (SA) 6-2, 7-6

REDBRIDGE: Women's Challenger tournament (GB unless stated): Second round: S Wachtershauser (Ger) bt J Lutrova (Russ) 6-3, 7-6; K Pace (US) bt M Mroz (Pol) 7-5, 7-6; D van de Zande (Bel) bt C Dhenin (Fr) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; H Inoue (Japan) bt S Smith 5-7, 6-1, 8-1; O Barabanschikova (Belo) bt C Wood 6-2, 6-2; E Wagnes (Ger) bt S Drake-Brockman (Aus) 6-3, 6-1. Quarter-finals: Inoue bt K De Wellie (Holl) 7-5, 3-6, 6-4; Wachtershauser bt (3) A Olaza (Pol) 7-5, 6-3; Barabanschikova bt Pace 6-7, 7-5, 6-1; Wagner bt Van de Zande 4-6, 6-4, 8-3

THE TIMES

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Young take on rugby heroes and tackle them on game's burning issues

'Is it true about you and Princess Di?'

They came from far and wide, from Lichfield, Aston and Gravelly Hill, Duddeston and Erdington. And they brought sandwiches in polystyrene boxes, packets of crisps and cans of cola, also bags containing football boots. This was the Cellnet Rugby Roadshow for which we gathered at Sutton Coldfield's ground, west of Birmingham. There were upwards of 100 clients, though they looked less; it is always hard to quantify small boys because they take up so little room.

Dean Richards, Martin Bayfield and Tony Underwood were among the coaches



FREUD ON FRIDAY

advertised to give advice respectively on body positions, rucking and mauling, and handling skills: what happened was that for the first part of the day they gave autographs — signing books and sheets of paper and bus passes, and doing so with rare goodwill, even when asked to sign their names several times so that the recipient could use signatures for trading.

Then there were photo opportunities: a mock lineout in which one side had a two-foot per man height advantage over the other; a simulated scrum featuring a rugby ball shaped six-year-old sitting cheerfully in front of a third of a tonne of international forwards.

"Why him and not me?" the small boy's friend asked. "He's wearing a Cellnet shirt," the official photographer replied.

Sutton Coldfield play rugby in the Midlands second division, are about halfway in the table, get home crowds of anything up to 200 who come in for nothing but are given the opportunity to throw loose change into a bucket at half-time.

On Saturdays, Sutton Coldfield put out seven XVs, a colts team and a women's team. What they have — and no one else, according to the ex-Cardiff, ex-Warrington chief youth coach, John Bevan — is a bespoke indoor playing area. This has a surface that looks like camel droppings but is state-of-the-art fibresand enriched with cotton waste and soft to the fall, though it needs to be watered twice a week.

At noon, the boys sit at one end of the room, the internationals stand facing them. It is question time.

"What is it like playing at Twickenham?"

"Would you join a rugby league club?"

"What was your most embarrassing moment?"

Each question is answered by each star, seriously and with some humour, though "is it true about you and Princess Diana?" perplexed them.

Whom are you asking?

All of them. They all denied relationships.

Richards is the boys' favourite. He not only gives the best answers but also signs autographs as if he enjoys it, goes out to the sodden pitch and coaches while the others drink tea and await the arrival of fish and chips from a nearby shop.

After, a string of questions to Underwood:

"Did you enjoy making the pizza commercial?" Yes.

"What did it feel like playing against Jonah Lomu?" Shell-shocked, an awesome sight.

"Do you fight with your brother?" No, we are very lovey-dovey.

"How much do you get paid?" I am not saying.

A boy asked Bayfield whether he had received any lucrative offers: "Yes, from Harlequins, but I did not take it up because of my extreme loyalty to Northampton."

On to quizzing their hero:

"How did you get your black eye?"

"When will you retire?"

"Do you drink a lot?"

"Why was Bayfield dropped from the England squad?"

"Who is your best mate in the international team?"

"Jack Rowell," Richards said. "He's got no one else."

The fish and chips arrive, no one suggests that a more thoughtfully arranged meal might have been produced by the sponsors of the Egon Ronay restaurant guide ... and it is coaching time. Bevan organises the session and is accorded respect. The England stars move genially among their admirers and are loved.

On the fibresand, a boy kicks a ball into the air and "marks" each catch, looking around vainly for sounds of approval.

On the pitch, an eight-year-old tries to throw a ball over Bayfield, who is 6ft 10in, while Underwood and Graham Rowntree organise a three-quarter line. A couple of mothers and a sister or two shiver on the touchline and take the occasional photograph for the family album, pictures which will be captioned: "Our Fred with Dean Richards at Sutton Coldfield, February 22, 1996."

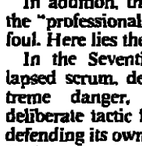
The roadshow is over. Parents arrive to collect their offspring and the sponsors give each of us a T-shirt and a rugby football. I drive off into the wetlands of wintry Warwickshire, where they still have allotments; at Wylde Green I see a man harvesting Brussels sprouts.

STEVE HILL



Richards gladly passes on some of his skills to a budding young rugby player at the Cellnet Roadshow

Referees turn to penalty try to make a point



GERALD DAVIES
Rugby Commentary

When should a penalty try not be a penalty try? The question suggests the possibility of a refereeing error, or that there might be an unwarranted increase in the award of this form of scoring. Whereas at one stage it was a rare way of scoring, it has become more prevalent. If it has become a regular feature in club games there is not, according to Ken Rowlands, the Welsh Rugby Union's referee development officer, a corresponding increase as yet at international level. The chances are, though, that there will be.

It is a relatively new phenomenon. A little more than a decade ago, a penalty try was so rare that it was awarded only in the event of an intentional knock-on. Since then there has been a shift in the context of this method of scoring, which doubtless will continue.

Nowadays, teams manoeuvre ways by which the score can be awarded. In certain situations there is a growing expectation among the crowd for the referee to award such a score. There was such an expectation at Twickenham when Wales suffered in the scrum against England. It has become a legitimate tactic for the attacking team to play for the penalty try.

In addition, there emerges the "professionally" executed foul. Here lies the danger.

In the Seventies, the collapsed scrum, despite its extreme danger, became a deliberate tactic for the team defending its own line. By the Eighties, it had become a fashionable area for referees to award penalty tries. But scrummaging tactics became so refined that nobody was sure who actually perpetrated the collapsed scrum. Furthermore, for a penalty try to be given against a pack which, without intent, buckles under the pressure of a pack containing more than eight players is clearly a nonsense.

The critical factor is the balance of probability and the certainty in the referee's mind. The penalty try should be awarded when, as the law states, but for foul play "a try would *probably* have been scored". Scotland believed that Scott Hastings should have been awarded a penalty try against Wales last weekend. After Arwel Thomas had put Wales into a 6-3 lead, the Scotland centre, with the aid of a spare ball thrown by Logan from the touchline, took a quick kick-off. He was obstructed by Justin Thomas, for which the visitors were awarded a penalty.

The probability of a try being scored would have been open to question since it was Wayne Proctor who was the more likely to reach the ball first over the goalline.

Some have queried the fact that Hastings did not take the drop kick "at or from behind the centre of the halfway line". The tricky bit is to define "behind". Rugby law does not define the distance in this case, and it would have been churlish for anyone to have objected. Rather it should be full marks for a brilliant piece of Scottish initiative.

In Paris, the award of a penalty try provided another knotty point. What if a try is scored instead of the prospect of one? Should a penalty try be awarded? Ireland crossed the line for a score in injury time. Ed Morrison gave Ireland a penalty try instead. According to the law, this should occur only if a try "would probably have been scored in a more favourable position than that where the ball was grounded" — that is, closer to the posts for the conversion. With Ireland taking a quick penalty five metres from the line, and in a crowded space, this was not at all likely.

Morrison indicates part of a growing trend to penalise the infringements which a team repeatedly commits, as happened in the Varsity match in December. Rowlands sees the repeated infringement as the bane of the game in the next few years.

"Falling on the ball and effectively killing it, as well as the clutter and offside in midfield, are the likely sources of persistent offences," he says. "Even so, the guiding principle must always be the probability of a try being scored at the time of a particular infringement."

Champions cashing in on ice skating revolution

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN PARIS

THE International Skating Union (ISU) could hardly have chosen a more appropriate setting than Paris for its inaugural Champions Series (formerly Grand Prix) final, since the *crème de la crème* will be competing here this evening and tomorrow.

They skate not only for the honour but also for a fistful of dollars as the ISU expands its horizons to halt the drift towards professionalism. Untold riches, for this sport at least, are in prospect. There will be $60,000 (about £40,000) to the winners of the four events, and total prize-money amounts to some $666,000.

The word "amateur" has been banished from the ISU lexicon and a skater remains "eligible" so long as he or she takes part in events authorised by the governing body. Thus Oksana Gritschuk and Evgeny Platov, the Russian holders of the Olympic, world and European ice dance titles, who would have been expected to follow in the path trodden by Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, among others, now find it profitable, indeed lucrative, to stay with the ISU. It is rumoured that they haul in $1 million a year each, without having had to sell their souls to commercial operators.

The field this weekend is confined to those who have accumulated most points in well-established competitions in Canada, Japan, the United States, Germany and France, and is therefore festooned with gold medals.

The men's championship, as an example, embraces the three different holders of the Olympic, world and European titles, respectively Alexei Urmanov, of Russia, Elvis Stojko, of Canada, and Viacheslav Zagorodniuk, of Ukraine.

The other singles event has been given added point by the victory last week in St Petersburg of Irina Slutskaya, who has moved past her seventeenth birthday since winning the European title for Russia in Sofia last month.

In perhaps the least strong entry of the four, the American champion, Michelle Kwan, though two years younger, had seemed a strong favourite, for all her tender years, after winning three of the five qualifying events, of which only two could count.

In St Petersburg, however, admittedly hampered by a cold, she could finish only third, beaten not only by Slutskaya but also another Russian, Maria Butyrskaya. There were no British qualifiers.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

There are a number of well-known adages associated with bridge. They are taught to novices as general rules and mostly contain sound basic advice. Some examples are: "Second Hand Plays Low", "Third Hand Plays High", "Cover an Honour with an Honour", "Lead Through Strength and Up to Weakness" etc. In this refresher article I examine "Second Hand Plays Low".

This is a basic piece of advice handed out to beginners at partnership whist-based games. What it means is that if you are the second person to play to a trick then you should generally play a low card. Here are some layouts to illustrate the point:

	♠A1064	
♠Q85		♠K93
	♠J72	

When declarer plays low from the closed hand, you must play low, and there is no way declarer can make more than two tricks. If he plays the ten, your partner will win with the king and you must later make your queen: if he plays the ace, your side will still make both the queen and king. If, on the other hand, you play the queen, declarer will make three tricks. He will win with the ace and later lose a trick only to your partner's king.

	♠A1064	
♠Q8		♠J75
	♠K932	

Again, if you play low when declarer plays low from his hand, your side must come to a trick. This time if you play the queen, declarer will win with dummy's ace. It is true that your partner's jack will not fall under the king, but you have given declarer a winning finesse position. He can play a small card towards his K93, inserting the nine if your partner plays low.

	♠Q85	
♠K83		♠A1092
	♠J74	

This is more difficult. When declarer leads small towards dummy's queen it is very tempting for West to grab his king, but unless this is the setting trick it is usually the wrong thing to do. If West plays small, declarer cannot make a trick from this holding; if he plays the king, declarer can later knock out the ace and establish a winner in the suit.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

National league

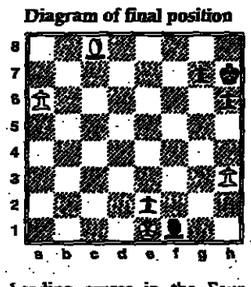
Rounds five and six of the Four Nations League were contested in Birmingham over the weekend. One of the best games was that between Grandmaster Murray Chandler, heading the British Chess Magazine team against Fide master Andrew Kinsman, representing Guildford.

White: Murray Chandler
Black: Andrew Kinsman
Four Nations League, February 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	e5
5	Nb5	a6
6	Nd6+	Bxd6
7	Qxd6	Qf8
8	Qd1	Qg6
9	Nc3	d5
10	Nxd5	Qxe4+
11	Ne3	Nf8
12	Bd3	Qb4+
13	c3	Qe7
14	0-0	0-0
15	b3	e4
16	Be2	Rd8
17	Qc2	Be6
18	Bb2	Rac8
19	c4	Nd4
20	Bxd4	Rxd4
21	Rad1	Rxd1
22	Rxd1	Rd8
23	Rxd8+	Qxd8
24	Qc3	Qc7
25	h3	Nd5
26	Nxd5	Bxd5
27	Qd4	Bc6
28	b4	Qd7
29	Qb6	f6
30	b5	axb5
31	cxb5	Bd5
32	a4	h6
33	a5	f4
34	Bg4	Qf7
35	Qd8+	Kh7
36	Qd7	Qxd7
37	Bxd7	e3
38	fxe3	fxe3
39	Bc6	e2
40	Kf2	Bxg2
41	a6	bxa6
42	bxa6	Bf1
43	Ke1	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Leading scores in the Four Nations League (from 12 possible) are: Midland Monarchs 11, Slough and Witney 10, Wood Green and North West Eagles 9.

Times chess book

Improve your game with Ray Keene's book, *The Times Winning Chess*, published by Batsford at £9.99 (credit card orders 01376 327901).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

OUGHTNESS
a. An obligation
b. A saltwater loch
c. Awfulness

PINLEDGE
a. A card game
b. A tooth filling
c. The tip of a scabbard

RIBACA
a. A wild Sicilian dance
b. An embroidered waistcoat
c. An insect pouch

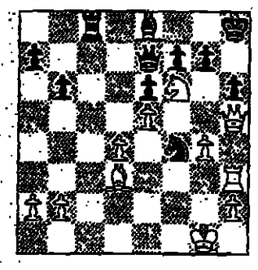
SALITA
a. A ballet leap
b. A tidal fish
c. An upward slope

Answers on page 38

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Vinogradov — Fedin, USSR 1973. How did White break through the black kingside defences in dramatic style?



Solution on page 38

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF ONEIDA

FELICITY ISABELLE COLBY RAMBLE, Plaintiff,

-vs-

JAMES HENRY RAMBLE, Defendant.

"ACTION FOR DIVORCE"

SUMMONS WITH NOTICE
Index No. D33300
R.J.I. No. 32-95-1790

Plaintiff designates Oneida County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is Plaintiff's residence. Plaintiff resides at Clinton, New York. To the above named Defendant:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to serve an Answer or Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to Answer or otherwise appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below.

NOTICE: The nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties. The relief sought is a judgment of absolute divorce in favor of the plaintiff, a judgement of the Court that there is no marital property subject to distribution and such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: January 22, 1996.

HAGE AND HOBAICA (Attorneys for Plaintiff) 610 Charlotte Street, Utica, New York 13501, (315) 797-9850

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF TELECOMPONENTS DISTRIBUTION LIMITED (formerly Priority Services Limited) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that I, Hedley Charles Brunt of Kissons Impey, Chartered Accountants, Bank House, 8 Cherry Street, Birmingham, B2 5AD, was appointed as Liquidator of the above-named company on 9 February 1996.
This notice is purely formal as all known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.
No other company which has a similar name is affected by these proceedings.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.182(a) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that I, Hedley Charles Brunt, the Liquidator of the above-named company, intend to make a distribution to creditors. The creditors of the above-named company are required, on or before the 28th day of March 1996, to prove their debts by sending to the undersigned, Hedley Charles Brunt of Kissons Impey, Bank House, 8 Cherry Street, Birmingham, B2 5AD, the Liquidator of the company, written statements of the amounts they claim to be due to them from the company and, if so required, to prove such further details and produce such documents or other evidence as may appear to the Liquidator to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt before the date specified above is not entitled to disturb, by reason that he has not participated in it, the intended distribution mentioned above or any other distribution to be declared before his debt is proved.
This notice is purely formal as all known creditors have been, or will be, paid in full.
Dated this 16th day of February 1996.
H C BRUNT, LIQUIDATOR.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
ACOMEX LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held on 7 March 1996 at 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for purposes mentioned in Section 99 of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2)(a) of the said Act who will furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
DATED 16 of February 1996.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.
P. Gleeson, Director.

RICHARD DEVINE HOLDINGS LIMITED
RICHARD DEVINE LIMITED
R D PLANT LIMITED
RICHARD DEVINE SPECIAL WORKS LIMITED
(All in Administrative Receivership)
NOTICE is hereby given that we, Ladislav Horman and Frank Stansil of Hacker Young and Partners, St Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of the above-named companies on 29th January 1996 by National Westminster Bank Plc under the powers contained in a debenture dated 20th February 1968 whereby fixed and floating charges were created over all the assets of the company.
Assets of the company of which the person appointed is not made Receiver, None.
14th February 1996.
Ladislav Horman,
Joint Administrative Receiver.

CABINTREE PLC
(IN LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 11.2(1) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the liquidators of the above-named Company intend within four (4) months from 11 March 1996 to declare a first dividend to creditors. The creditors of the company are required, on or before 11 March 1996, to submit their proofs of debt to the undersigned Morgan Hodgson of PO Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT, the joint liquidator of the company, and if so required, to provide such further details or produce such documentary evidence as may appear to the liquidators to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt before the date mentioned above is not entitled to disturb, by reason that he has not participated in it, the first dividend or any other dividend declared before his debt is proved.
Dated 19th of February 1996.
ML McGillop, Joint Liquidator.

The Insolvency Act 1986
SIDLAW TEXTILES (JUTE) LTD
Registered in England No: 2098813. Administrative Receiver: Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Population & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN. Date of appointment: 13th February 1996. By whom Appointed: J & F Spinners Limited. Date of Mortgage Debenture: 27th October 1995. Assets Secured: The whole of the property of the company. Dated 13th day of February 1996.
M R DORRINGTON, Administrative Receiver.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NEW MEDIA PRODUCTIONS LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at St. Paul's House, Warwick Lane, London, EC4P 4BN at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday 7th March 1996, for the purpose of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the administrative receivers under Section 48 of the said Act. The meeting may, if thinks fit, establish a committee to exercise the functions conferred on creditors' committee by or under the Act.
A proxy form is sent herewith. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Only creditors are only entitled to vote if:
(a) they have delivered to us at the address shown above, no later than 1200 hours on Wednesday 6th March 1996 written details of the debts they claim to be due to them from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986; and
(b) there has been lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
ROGER COOK, Joint Administrative Receiver.
Date: 21 February 1996.

The Insolvency Rules 1986
DOMANI DESIGNS LIMITED
(In Administration)
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The Insolvency Act 1986
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(In Liquidation)
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M.R. DORRINGTON, Liquidator.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of GEORGE EDWARD WALDING please contact Bridges & Bridges, Weir Finders, Sacramento, California. (Phone (916) 451 0671, Fax: (916) 451 0992.) Born in Northamptonshire, 1912, he served as a sergeant in the Royal Artillery, last seen as a barman in London in 1950's.

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هكذا في الإهمال

Taylor takes charge at Vicarage Road with backing vocals from Elton John

Watford's greatest hits back in harmony

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

Nine years after striding out of Vicarage Road, an adventurer bound for glory, Graham Taylor walked back in yesterday, a refugee from the cruel world outside. Apart from the crunching of his feet on the newly sprinkled snow, the only sound was the shattering of the No 1 rule in football management. Never go back, they say.

But Taylor has, back to the one fireside in football which still glows with warm memories, the one place still untainted by the excesses of the tabloids and the legacy of public ridicule. Taylor only has to look at the pictures on the walls to rekindle that sense of innocence lost during his time with England and Wolverhampton Wanderers. Back, too, have gone Elton John, on whose money Taylor and Watford built the original Yellow Brick Road all the way from the fourth to the first division, and Luther Blissett, whose goals showed the way.

The press conference yesterday was less an unveiling of a new regime as a journey in the Tardis and, though there was much talk of how much the game has changed since Taylor left Watford for Aston Villa in 1987, the overwhelming impression was how much it had stayed the same. Money might be the dominant force now, but sentiment still comes a strong second. "All my best decisions have been taken when my heart has ruled my head," Taylor said, tacitly acknowledging that this might not be the most rational move of his life.

To steer Watford clear of relegation, Taylor will need to work a greater football miracle than he did in taking them to second in the first division and an FA Cup Final in his first stint at the club. With 18 matches remaining, Watford are six points adrift at the bottom of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division. Their stadium is unrecognisable from the Vicarage Road of Taylor's days after a £5 million facelift, but so is the team and the club.

Though there was some confusion about the exact job definition, the tacit understanding was that Taylor would take charge of the team for the remainder of the season before moving upstairs into his long-term role as general manager. His departure from Wolves earlier this season had, he said, effectively ended his tracksuit days. He is 51 and ready for a suit and tie.

Blissett did not seem entirely sure what he would be doing. "Taking training sessions," he said. The issue of who would be picking the team was skirted as well. Events have moved so quickly, Taylor has no office and no contract, and the present chairman, Professor Stuart Timperley, was yesterday still on a speaking engagement in Sweden. In his absence, the former chairman spoke for him. And some strong language he used, too.

"This club is rotting backstage and on the pitch and the rot needs to stop," John said. "A lot of dead wood needs to be cleared out and Graham Taylor is the only manager I can think of frightening enough to do that." The words were spoken with the force of a man who has not seen the club score a goal in three years. "To be honest, I didn't come to games because it broke my heart. The club had lost its heart and soul and that hurt me a lot," John said.

Quite what role John, already a life vice-president, will have in the club, remains to be seen. He does not want to be chairman again nor, he said, will he be putting his hand into his deep pocket to finance what he termed, with due political correctness, the "new Watford". Moral support was as far as it would go. "I want to be involved more than I have been and I want to have fun again," he said. "We're not trying to recreate the past, we are talking about now and the future."

Football has not been much fun for Taylor either in recent years. Indeed, he had not planned to return to the game until next season. "I was enjoying my independence, being out of the limelight. I would only have done it for this club," he said.

If the people of Watford were pleased to see old faces, they hardly bothered to show it. One small boy on a bicycle was the sum of the welcome, though the ticket office was doing brisk business for the home match against Ipswich Town on Saturday. One of Taylor's first visits was to the groundsman's hut, where Les Simmons, who has seen a few managers come and go in his 33 years as head groundsman, offered his usual earthy welcome. "Oh gawd," he said when the familiar figure walked in, "not you again."

DES JENSON



Taylor, right, rejoins Elton John at Vicarage Road yesterday, returning to the club where he made his name



The celebrated alliance in 1978, when Watford's rise began

Invasion embarrasses FA

BY DAVID MADDOCK

THE Football Association is to investigate the crowd disturbance at Villa Park on Wednesday evening, after admitting its embarrassment over a pitch invasion at the end of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final between Aston Villa and Arsenal. The FA will ask for Aston Villa's observations before deciding on what action to take.

The timing of the sorry episode, when Villa supporters clashed with their counterparts on the pitch before stewards and police restored calm, is unfortunate for the FA, which has hosted a workshop this week for nations competing in the European championship in England in June.

One of the main themes of the conference was the need to instil in visiting supporters a responsibility not to go onto the pitch. "It is an embarrassment for us because we have been telling all of Europe that our supporters don't go onto the pitch," Adrian Titcombe, the FA's head of security, said.

Aston Villa, who host four games in Euro '96, have already taken steps against those supporters who joined the pitch invasion. They will identify culprits from video recordings, and ban them from receiving Coca-Cola Cup final tickets. Villa will face the winners of semi-final between Leeds United and Birmingham City on March 24. Leeds have a congested cup programme over the next few days, their replay in the FA Cup fifth round with Port Vale causing further confusion.

The Yorkshire club must travel to Vale Park next Tuesday for the replay, but it is a prospect they are not happy about. Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said: "We play in the Coca-Cola semi-final on Sunday, and would prefer to play on the Wednesday, but we are told that Stoke play on that night and it is not possible. We feel that is not fair."

The FA Cup ties on Wednesday did nothing to clear the confusion into which the quarter-final draw has subsided. Further chaos is in prospect if Nottingham Forest draw their delayed fifth-round tie with Tottenham Hotspur next week. Forest have a Uefa Cup quarter-final against Bayern Munich in March and the only clear date for a replay against Tottenham would be on the Saturday scheduled for the quarter-final, March 9. If Forest win through after a replay, the only realisitic date for their quarter-final tie with Villa is during the week of the semi-final. It could be worse, however. In 1963, the third round of the competition was not completed until March.

The BBC will televise the quarter-final between Leeds or Port Vale, and Liverpool or Charlton Athletic, live on Sunday, March 10.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

OUGHTNESS

(a) An otiose and abominable word of poor philosophers' jargon denoting the moral quality perceived in things we ought to do. There are simpler words, such as *standards*, *norms* and *morals*. "What sort of ought is that? On the occasion of experience we see the oughtness of certain acts, we have an intuitive appreciation of an objective moral order." Plato put it better.

PINLEDGE

(b) In dentistry, an inlay or onlay which is held in place partly by a pin or pins inserted in the tooth (a *pinlay*). A *pinledge* is a *pinlay* covering the lingual surface of a tooth and dependent on pins inserted in ledges cut in the tooth for retention and stability. That is what the dentist is up to, when he crams your mouth full of cotton-wool bales, tiny vacuum cleaners and metal clamps, and then asks you a complicated question about your summer holidays.

RIBAGA

(c) An eponym used to designate a pouch on the abdomen of female insects, chiefly of the family Cimicidae, into which spermatozoa are deposited by the male during copulation. An eponym of Constantino *Ribaga* (fl. 1897-1929), Italian zoologist. "In the Cimicidae and in *Xylocoris* the sperms are deposited in Ribaga's organ and from there pass through the haemocoele to the ovaries."

SALITA

(c) In Italy, an upward slope or incline, a stretch of rising ground. *Cf. sally.* All these words are derived ultimately from the Latin *salire* to leap. H. G. Wells, *The History of Mr Polly*, 1910: "Other countrysides have their pleasant aspects. Italy gives salitas and wayside chapels, and chestnuts and olive orchards."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxh6+! gxh6 2 Rxh6+ Kg7 3 Rh7+ Kf8 4 Rh8+ Kg7 5 Rg8+ Kh6 6 g5 mate.

Uefa backs campaign by Venables

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE campaign by Terry Venables, the England football coach, to allow national teams competing at the European championship in England this summer to increase the size of their squads, appears to have succeeded.

Gerhard Aigner, the general secretary of Uefa, the game's European governing body, said in London yesterday that the 16 finalists would almost certainly be able to select 22 players rather than the 21 at present proposed.

Venables received the support of the 15 other team coaches involved during a workshop about the tournament this week, and Uefa is ready to change the rule at its executive committee meeting in Reykjavik in April.

"We support the change, but since it involves a change in the rules we need the blessing of the executive committee," Aigner said. "The fact that they [players] may have to play a maximum of six matches in 20 days could make it necessary for a coach to call on all his players, so we believe it will be better to have 22."

Uefa had already sanctioned an increase from 20 to 21 to accommodate a third goalkeeper, but now coaches will be able to allow cover for every position in their team.

However, Aigner said that there was still disagreement over the unresolved issue of whether suspensions incurred in the qualifying stages should remain in force for the finals, which begin on June 8.

Vase in need of more friends in the North

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY KEITH PIKE

POLITICIANS may insist that the North-South divide no longer exists, but they probably do not have the FA Carlsberg Vase in mind. With victories in more than half of the finals since the competition's climax was moved to Wembley in 1975, southern clubs have held sway.

Tomorrow, though, as the 1995-96 tournament reaches the quarter-final stage, their rivals have an obvious opportunity to reverse the trend, with the three northern clubs which have had to battle through from the qualifying rounds hoping to make the most of home advantage against their so-called betters.

Neither Flixton, the leaders, nor Clitheroe, their North West Counties League colleagues, have reached this stage before, and their matches, against Canvey Island and Peacehaven and Telscombe respectively, promise to be tight affairs.

Canvey Island, quarter-finalists last season, showed their potential by taking Brighton to a replay in the FA Cup in November, while Peacehaven boast an unbeaten record in the Unijet Sussex County League.

None of them, though, can boast a player of the pedigree that Collier Row will field away to Brigg Town.

Alan Dickens's prowess as a goalscorer earned him England Youth and Under-21 caps, and once persuaded Chelsea to pay West Ham United £600,000 for his services. Now 31, Dickens has proved an inspirational signing for a club relegated last season but now enjoying the best season in its history.

"The other players like and look up to Alan," Ian Anstey, the Collier Row secretary, said yesterday. "He's a local lad and very modest about his achievements, but even though he is now playing in midfield his pedigree is obvious."

Semi-finalists in 1987, Collier Row are also benefiting from Anstey calls "a far more professional and business-like approach". They have had Brigg Town, of the Northern Counties East League, watched, and, like Canvey Island, their Icis League second division promotion rivals, will travel north today.

"You can't expect to give of you best after a six-hour coach ride, so we are doing the whole thing properly," Anstey said. "When you get this close to Wembley, there's no point in half-measures."

The fourth quarter-final tie pits Mangotsfield United, of the Great Mills League, against Raunds Town, the Hereward Sports United Counties League side who lost to Arlesey Town, the eventual winners, in the semi-finals last season.

ENGLAND SEMI-PROFESSIONAL SQUAD (v Ireland at Kidderminster Harriers FC, February 27): L Batty (Woking), R Price (Macclesfield Town), P Webb (Kidderminster Harriers), M Smith (Stevenage Borough), K Brown (Woking), M Tucker (Woking), N Ashby (Rushden and Diamonds), C Rose (Witton Albion),D Venables (Stevenage Borough), S Stott (Rushden and Diamonds), K Cranmman (Gateshead), L Hughes (Kidderminster Harriers), C Alford (Kettering Town), G Kimmins (Hyde United) B Hayles (Stevenage Borough), P Power (Macclesfield Town).

RADIO CHOICE

Sessions end in tears

Mightier than the Sword. *Radio 3, 9.10pm.*

It had to happen. And tonight it does. Arts interviewer Hugh Pankhurst breaks down at the microphone. Given his domestic problems — unfaithful wife, arsonist son — who can honestly blame him? Not me, certainly. It is a wonder it took so long to happen. Undoubtedly the last straw is the studio chat about D.H. Lawrence and that obsessional sexuality of his. It did not help matters when every night since Monday, *Mightier than the Sword* had dealt with the traumas of, and in, Thomas Hardy, Shakespeare, Beckett and Virginia Woolf. Poor old Pankhurst sounds uncannily like John Sessions. This is not surprising considering that it *is* John Sessions. The scripts of these hilarious spoof interviews were written by John Morton. Obviously there must be another series.

Kaleidoscope Special: H.E. *Radio 4, 9.30pm.*

In my book, there is no need for a peg on which to hang an appreciation of H.E. Bates. His writing is occasion enough. Nevertheless, *Kaleidoscope* has seen fit to put out tonight's celebration of Bates to complement Radio 4's current serialisation of his *A Little of What You Fancy*. Bates's son, Richard, links *H.E.*, and there are warts-'n'-all critiques from A.S. Byatt and Richard Pinner. I liked Byatt's bracketing of Bates with Stanley Spencer because of the bucolic and sensuous freedom of their work and their lovingly created "beautiful flesh".

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Dave Pearce 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa I'Anson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat, 6.15 The Net and at 6.30 The Mix 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00 John Peel 1.00am Radio 1 Rap Show

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Kelner 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Judi Spiers 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Speaking Volumes 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 A Bouquet from Belfast. Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.05am Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes 1.00 Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl Video Review, Euronews and at 11.30 Chain Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck; and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Fuscoe on Five, incl at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Alan Green's Sportstalk 8.35 Off Piste 9.05 American Graffiti 9.35 Stop Press 10.05 Entertainment Superhighway 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 Scott Chisholm 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00-6.00am Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf *Ake* 7.30 The Legacy of Colonialism 8.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 News in German 9.15 Faith 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf: *Ake* 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Meridian 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Science in Action 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack: Alternative 3.00 News in German 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack: Alternative 8.07 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 We Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 People and Politics 10.00 Newdesk 10.30 The New Europe 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Spotlight 11.15 The Legacy of Colonialism 11.45 The Farming World Midnight Newsdesk 12.30am From the Wastkies 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 Seven Days 1.30 Jazz 1.45 Good Books 2.00 Newsday 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Vintage Chart Show 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Jazz 4.45 Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 8.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Margaret Howard 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Classic Verdict 8.00 Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Respighi (Nocturne, Op 70 No 1); Schubert (Piano Trio No 2 in E flat); Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in E); Villa-Lobos (Bachianas Brasileiras No 5); Gotschalk (Bamboula); Moeran (Rhapsody in F sharp for piano and orchestra)
9.00 Morning Collection. Tchaikovsky (February, The Seasons); Vaughan Williams (Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis); Vivaldi, arr Bach (Concerto in C); Vivaldi (Gloria in D)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Mendelssohn (Sonata in D minor, Op 65 No 6); 10.15 Haydn (Mass in C, Mass in Time of War); Masson, arr Karg-Elert (Improvisation on *Nearer, My God to Thee*); Mussorgsky, arr Stokowski (Pictures at an Exhibition); Bach (Fantasia and Fugue in G minor)
12.00 Composers of the Week: Scottish Romantics
1.00pm Chamber Music from Manchester. BBC Singers under Stephen Cleobury
2.00 Piano Duets. Leo van Doeselaar; Wyneke Jordans
3.00 Mining the Archive. Zara Nelsova, cello, plays Hugh Wood (Cello Concerto); Chopin (Cello Sonata) (1/4)
4.20 By the Waters of Babylon. The Greek-speaking community at St Andrew's, Kentish Town, London, talks to the Rev Alan Walker (8/9)
4.30 Rembetika. John Thornley introduces recordings of Greek urban folk songs
5.00 The Music Machine
5.15 In Tune. Including Sarasate (Introduction and Tarantella) and Nielsen (Rhapsody Overture: An Imaginary Trip to the Faroe Islands)
7.30 BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Spain under Tadaiki Otaka: Margaret Price, soprano. Strauss (Don Juan); Haydn (Cantata: Berenice che fai); Mahler (Symphony No 4)
9.10 Mightier than the Sword. See Choice
9.30 Hear and Now. BBC Invitation Concert. Stephen Bryant, violin; BBC Symphony Orchestra under David Porcelijn. Tristan Keuris (Three Preludes); Andrew Toovey (Red Icon); Lutoslawski (Partita); Arne Nordheim (Symphony: Magma)
12.00-1.00am An American in London. Shows by Jerome Kern (2/4)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Professor George Steiner is the castaway (r)
9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley
10.00-10.30 News; Foreign Correspondence (FM only) (r)
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 Children's BBC Radio 4: The Winter Sleepwalker (LW only), by Joan Aiken. Adjoa Andoh reads the last of four stories
10.30 Woman's Hour
11.30 The Natural History Programme
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm The Food Programme
12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: His Masterpiece. Jane Beeson's dramatisation of Emile Zola's novel based on his friendship with Paul Cézanne (2/2) (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow sees *Spellbound* and *Masterpieces from the Doria Pamphilj Gallery, Rome*
4.45 Short Story: The Budget by Mario Benedetti. Read by David Holt (r)
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast
6.00 News 6.30 Going Places
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical debate in Grimsby, with Diane Abbott, MP; Charles Kennedy, MP, Liberal Democrat Europeon Affairs spokesperson; Peter Temple-Morris, MP; and Kenneth Minogue, Professor of Political Science at the London School of Economics
8.50 Law in Action
9.15 Letter from America
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: H.E. (r). See Choice 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Contractors (5/10)
11.00 Week Ending
11.25 Fourth Column
11.45 Powerful Substances (r)
12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Players (5/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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Number-crunching is the insects' buzz word

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

I hope I've got this right. If a pair of flies were left alone to mate, and then all the eggs survived and multiplied for a year, at the end of that period the ball of maggots would be — wait for it — *as big as the Earth*. So John Shrapnel told us last night in **Alien Empire** (BBC1), and it was not a throwaway remark. You were supposed to gulp and think, and glance behind your chair for a big ball of maggots rolling towards you. Fly-bashing sessions with a rolled-up newspaper suddenly look like justified self-defence.

Alien Empire is a horribly watchable series, it has to be admitted. Last night it concerned the prime instinct of insects — replication — and kicked off with eye-boggling footage of an invasion of mayflies from the Mississippi. Once a year white, shiny, silent cars are converted into brown, soft, buzzy ones, as a billion-strong plague of winged insects rises from the river. They have no mouths; they live, mate and die on a single day. It's an awful thought. For hundreds of millions of years, each generation has hatched, stretched its wings, felt peckish, but tragically run out of time.

The intrusive cinematic music in *Alien Empire* gets no better. Close your eyes and the indicated scene is specific, but irrelevant: behind a sequence of two silk moths in a warehouse, the music madly announces "Prague. Cold War love affair. Bridge. Water. Night." Still, the music last night was mercifully drowned out on occasion, when we met insects that hear in "Ultrasound", and are therefore more tuned in to clicks than melody. Also, in a staged scene, a cicada drove a soprano off stage at the Sydney Opera House. Cicadas can reach a volume of 120 decibels, if they really want to.

Wow, amazing facts! Yet sometimes after watching a programme like *Alien Empire*, your memory does a bit of rational tidying up, and says "Hang on, it can't have been 120 decibels, can it?" and then the canker doubt sets in. Halfway through telling someone about the big ball of maggots, you stop yourself. "No, that's ridiculous. Perhaps it was as big as a house. Or a garden shed." Imagine how these big assertions must have affected John Shrapnel, who now wakes up in a sweat most nights. "Oh God, was I supposed to say billions?" he screams. "Where did I get billions from? I said billions."

Back in the insect-free world of crime, **Thief Takers** (ITV) seems mainly concerned to replicate and die, too. Not content to rip off the music from the vastly superior *NYPD Blue*, last night it got its plotline from *The Godfather*, its guest acting style from Hong Kong film-maker John Woo, and a few lines from *Chinatown*.

None of this second-hand-Rose stuff would matter, of course, if *Thief Takers* had a bit of integral dramatic energy; but as an organism it shows few signs of life. The idea that it's *The Sweeney* for the 1990s is just a bad joke. Reece Dinsdale is bewilderingly miscast as the tough guy: possessing no natural air of authority, he seems to have based his snappy, snarly performance on an observation of pre-menstrual tension. A line such as "Let's get the cars round. This could take a while" offers a variety of nuances for an actor. But Dinsdale sets his lips in a curl and spits it out, just as he later spews out another ostensibly inoffensive line: "Why don't you get some coffees in?"

The plot, concerning an incipient gang war in Chinatown, held a certain amount of interest, however; the guest actors stole the show, as usual. Ex-military thugs from China had breezed into town, and would brook no resistance from the Triads. All the energy and confidence centred on these cocky, attractive villains who tore down "Remember Tiananmen" posters (presumably because they'd been inside the tanks). They waved automatic weapons from the crooks of their arms: they strutted with their heads thrown back at an impossible haughty angle. They poked chopsticks into their own throats, as a test of manliness. Oh yes, this was more like it. And given their tendency to fix their eyes on the ceiling, incidentally, escaping them would be an easy matter. You could just crawl on the floor, and they wouldn't see you.

Feeling drained yet? I know I am. Just as *Thief Takers* is an action series with a B12 deficiency, the so-called satirical **Annie's Bar** (Channel 4) lacks other essential nutrients, such as humour. But it has come to life in its first few weeks, and if you don't tune in expecting jokes it is passable. Personally I will watch anything with Larry Lamb in it; a weakness that paradoxically sustains me through many an ordeal. His final speech to the clueless, rookie MP last night: "Resign, you pillock? How can you resign? You only just got here!" was typically heartfelt, and got a laugh for a line that was not funny. Gosh, it sounds as though I'm clutching at straws. Well, I am, there's no shame in that.

Silent Witness (BBC1) concluded well. This two-part female-pathologist story was finely constructed, and captured some of the horror of violence you get in *Prime Suspect*. You can always tell when a drama wants us to take it seriously: colour is drained out; key scenes are almost black and white. And the victims were children.

My only complaint was that it ought really to have been shown in one evening, like an *Inspector Morse*. But Alan Yentob can't shift the Nine O'Clock News, so that's that. One final kindly note: Amanda Burton's wardrobe of ugly Aertex shirts and unflattering manly raincoats had clearly been collated by an undeclared enemy. She should watch out for such sabotage in future.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (82897)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (46255)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (4649491)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (3737526)
9.45 Kilroy (s) (8449110)
10.30 Good Morning (s) (89491)
12.00 News (Ceefax); regional news and weather (8524507) **12.05pm Turnabout** (9075675) **12.30 Going for a Song** (s) (34323)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (16014) **1.30 Regional News** and weather (77108472)
1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (34993859) **2.00 Pebble Mill** (s) (9264410) **2.40 Moon over Miami** (Ceefax) (s) (4544385)
3.30 The Littlest Pet Shop (s) (5589878) **3.50 Look Sharp!** (s) (1906588) **4.05 The All New Popeye Show** (r) (2103304) **4.15 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde** (Ceefax) (s) (5142217) **4.30 The Mask** (Ceefax) (s) (4464043) **4.55 Newsround Extra.** A report on the development of a new generation of intelligent robots (Ceefax) (s) (1557149) **5.10 Blue Peter** (1292946)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (592120)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) Weather (120)
6.30 Regional news magazines (472)
7.00 Gag Tag. Comedy quiz for stand-up comics refereed by Bob Monkhouse. This week Eddie Large and Phill Jupitus are joined by Bobby Davro and Mark Hurst. (Ceefax) (s) (6043) **WALES: 7.00** Don't Look Back
7.30 Tomorrow's World. Includes a look at a fast and painless treatment for excessive facial hair growth. (Ceefax) (s) (656)
8.00 Just Good Friends. Penny is apprehensive about her decision to set up home again with Vince (r) (Ceefax) (9781)
8.30 A Question of Sport chaired by David Coleman. Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham are joined by "Dickie" Bird, Barry McGuigan, Lucinda Green and Emlyn Hughes (Ceefax) (s) (5588)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (9526)
9.30 FILM: Mad Max 3: Beyond Thunderdome (1985) starring Mel Gibson and Tina Turner. When he arrives in the comunity of Bartertown, Max is made an offer he cannot refuse by the local ruler — a fight to the death in the Thunderdome arena. Directed by George Miller and George Ogilvie (Ceefax) (s) (533507). **N.I.: 9.30pm** P.K. Tonight **10.20** FILM: Days of Thunder **12.00** FILM: Plaza Suite **1.50** Weather
11.15 FILM: By Dawn's Early Light (1990) with Powers Boothe, Rebecca De Mornay and Martin Landau. A thriller about a patrolling B52 bomber, whose crew may be the only people able to avert a nuclear Armageddon, after an unidentified missile lands in Russia. Directed by Jack Sholder (Ceefax) (s) (261101)
12.50am Sade Live in San Diego. The singer recorded at the Open Air Theatre in October 1993 (r) (s) (9733809)
1.40 Weather (6928415)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Biology (2547149) **6.25** The York Mystery Plays (2526656) **6.50** History of Science (5644410)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (8968878)
7.30 Stingray (r) (Ceefax) (27120) **8.00 F.O.T.** (r) (s) (29997) **8.30 Poddington Peas** (r) (7343762) **8.35 Open a Door** (7342033)
8.40 The Record (s) (5296471)
9.05 Daytime on Two: Job Bank (s) (1441439) **9.15** Teaching (s) (673323) **9.45** Watch (s) (5822584) **10.00** Playdays (s) (5091656) **10.25** Quinze Minutes (s) (8041304) **10.45** Numbers Plus (s) (9449101) **11.00** Look and Read (s) (3835472) **11.20** Short Circuit (s) (7604120) **11.40** Belief File (s) (2230491) **12.00** English File (s) (79174) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (32965) **1.00** Scene (s) (14656) **1.30** Showcase (s) (77120694) **1.45** Words and Pictures (s) (77125149)
2.00 Poddington Peas (r) (10584507) **2.05 Open a Door** (r) (10583878)
2.10 Open View. OU highlights (10575859)
2.15 Sport on Friday. Includes the World Skiing Championships, and the World Indoor Bowls Championships (516014) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) (1515491)
4.00 World Indoor Bowls (s) (1110)
6.00 The Munsters (b/w) (Ceefax) (501439)
6.25 The New Avengers (Ceefax) (937656)
7.15 Electric Circus (s) (139656)
7.30 Sounds of the Eighties. Featuring REM, Echo and the Bunnymen, the Bangles, the Cure, the Pixies and the Smiths (Ceefax) (s) (526). **N.I.: 7.30** Hearts and Minds
8.00 Top Gear Motorsport. The last programme in the series includes reports from Daytona on the 24-hour race, and the Macau motorcycle Grand Prix (Ceefax) (s) (7323)
8.30 Gardeners' World. Stephen Lacey visits a garden in Galway (Ceefax) (s) (6830)
9.00 The Fast Show (Ceefax) (s) (7168)
9.30 Red Dwarf VI: Legion. (r) (Ceefax) (12101)
10.00 Fist of Fun. Comedy show starring Stewart Lee and Richard Herring (s) Followed by **Women on Men** (29633)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (673149)
11.15 The Smell of Reeves and Mortimer: Haircuts (r) (Ceefax) (s) (789743) **WALES: 11.15** Lobby (752439) **11.45** The Smell of Reeves and Mortimer (744410) **12.15am** Later Presents Paul Weller in Concert (2819298) **1.20** Weather **1.25-2.25** World Indoor Bowls (8282366)



Paul Weller, Jools Holland (11.45pm)

11.45 Later Presents Paul Weller in Concert (s) (733410)
12.50am Weatherview (9318366)
12.55 World Indoor Bowls. Highlights of a pairs semi-final (s) (6029692) Ends at **2.00**

CHOICE

Gardens Without Borders
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Alan Mason's gentle series has become stronger as it has gone along, particularly when it has gone beyond the immediate impact of its chosen gardens and set them in a wider historical context. Nobody who has followed *Gardens Without Borders* can have been left unaware of the great and enduring Moorish influence on Spain, even though it is more than 500 years since the Moors were expelled. Accompanied by Wol Staines, who doubles as gardener and geography teacher, the quietly appreciative Mason this week travels to Europe's most westerly point and discovers its most westerly plant. Then it is off to the Sintra hills and a fine garden undergoing restoration and north towards Oporto to observe the harvesting of Portugal's main crop, cork.

Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's... The Missing Page
ITV, 8.30pm

It is a pity, in their update of this old Tony Hancock script, that Ray Galton and Alan Simpson could not resist a Jeffrey Archer joke. Deserved or not, there have been too many. Other attempts to bring the playlet into the 1990s, with references to scratchcards and Quentin Tarantino, also jar, simply because they are unnecessary. The original is too good to need them. So ignore Archer and Tarantino and enjoy again the pithy dialogue and exquisite comic plotting, as Paul Merton assumes the Hancock role of the library borrower who becomes obsessed with tracking down the crucial last page of a whodunnit. One piece of rewriting that does work is to change the gender of the Sid James part and give the Merton character a wife. She is played (as in real life) by Caroline Quentin.

The Mark Thomas Comedy Product
Channel 4, 10.30pm

Mark Thomas belongs to that growing band of young comedians who are either excessively liked or completely dismissed. Among his admirers are such papers as *Time Out* and *New Musical Express*. Since he writes for both, this may not be surprising. Taking the opposite point of view, Sir David Steel has called Thomas a "disgusting individual". Brilliant or revolting, Thomas launches a new series of topical comedy shows, part stand-up routine, part film, on issues of the day. They are so topical that the stand-up is recorded (before a pub audience) shortly before transmission and is therefore unpreviewable. But on past form expect a sharp and irreverent style, calculated to delight some and outrage others, as Thomas lays into such topics as work, money, crime and power. The theme for tonight is the media and manipulation.

Later Presents Paul Weller in Concert
BBC2, 11.45pm

Anybody who reached the top of the pop scene as long ago as the 1970s, as Paul Weller did with The Jam, must be counted something of a veteran. But after a relatively unsuccessful period with The Style Council, when he jettisoned his punk-influenced style for jazz and soul, he has spectacularly revived his career as a solo performer. Record sales, awards and critical acclaim have underlined Weller's status as a godfather of Brit-Pop. Introduced by Jools Holland, this studio concert was recorded for the BBC and features Weller with his regular band, the vocalist Carleen Anderson and Holland on the organ. The repertoire includes tracks from Weller's early career and solo albums and also numbers from his million-selling *Stanley Road*, named after his birthplace.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2024120)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (3712217)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (5001033)
10.00 The Time ... the Place (s) (1252052)
10.35 This Morning (15110859)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6513491)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3864526)
12.55 Murder, She Wrote (s) (8949526) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (57495946) **2.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (57407781) **2.50 The Good Health Guide** (3201304)
3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (2531323)
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2530694)
3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (1904120) **3.45 Zzzap!** (1909675) **4.00 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries** (1529694) **4.25 Gladiators: Train to Win** (Teletext) (1522781) **4.55 Get This** (s) (1542217)
5.10 A Country Practice (s) (8955762)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (446453)
6.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (598965)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (691526)
6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (564168)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right. Couples test their knowledge of public opinion in the hope of winning a car and cash (Teletext) (s) (5101)
7.30 Coronation Street. Denise returns to the Street once more (Teletext) (192)
8.00 The Bill. The discovery of a knife provides Croft with a vital clue to solving a series of assaults (Teletext) (1149)



Merton and Quentin (8.30pm)

8.30 Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's... The Missing Page (Teletext) (s) (1976)
9.00 Catherine Cookson's The Girl. In the penultimate episode Hannah Boyle's stepbrother, Matthew, is found badly beaten. Anne seizes her opportunity for revenge against Hannah, who is forced into marriage with the local butcher (Teletext) (s) (2965)
10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (29679)
10.30 HTV Headlines and weather (881781)
10.40 Entertaining Mr Wedlock (688120)
11.10 Short Story Cinema (248052)
11.40 Tales from the Crypt (423491)
12.30 Hotel Babylon (s) (3118502)
1.10 The Good Sex Guide... Late (s) (8280908)
2.10 FILM: Riviera (1987) starring Ben Masters and Elyssa Davalos. A former American spy, wanted by the East and West, places his life in danger when he plans to reopen his father's chateau. Directed by Alan Smithee (344057)
3.50 Brewhouse Jazz Classic Cuts (95501057)
4.00 Live from London (r) (s) (56637)
5.00 On the Live Side (57540)
5.30 Morning News (80163)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:
2.50pm-3.20 The Really Helpful Programme (3201304)
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (756878)
10.40 Friday Live (866762)
11.40 Hunter (423491)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (6521410)
12.55 Coronation Street (3849217)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (84231491)
1.55 Home and Away (80365912)
2.25 Wish You Were Here...? (57498033)
2.55-3.20 A World of Wonder (5520930)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8955762)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (37410)
10.30 Westcountry News (872033)
10.45 Film: Satisfaction (63202014)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (3849217)
1.25 Chain Letters (84231491)
1.55 A Country Practice (34990762)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8955762)
6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (756878)
10.40 Central Weekend (81291588)
12.40am Hotel Babylon (3114786)
1.20 The Good Sex Guide... Late (8270521)
2.20 The Chart Show (2414231)
3.15 Dear Nick (4345618)
4.10 Jobfinder (3083076)
5.20 Asian Eye (1758434)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (3849217)
1.25 Home and Away (84231491)
1.55 A Country Practice (34990762)
5.10 Home and Away (8955762)
5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Your Story (233526)
6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (37410)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (29679)
10.30 Meridian News and Weather (872033)
10.45-11.15 This Little Piggy Went to Parliament...with Joanna Lumley (742052)
11.15 Tales from the Crypt (508946)
11.35 War of the Worlds (909236)
5.00am Freescreen (57540)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Think Tank (5625385) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (39965) **9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (3700472) **9.25 Blossom in Paris** (62328149) **11.10 The Adventures of Tintin** (3840304) **11.35 The Pink Panther Show** (6785946) **12.00 Sesame Street** (46168) **1.00pm Slot Meithrin** (32052) **1.30 Film: The Captive Heart** (38595588) **3.20 Terrytoons** (2520217) **3.30 Classic Ships** (946) **4.00 Backdate** (781) **4.30 The Pulse** (965) **5.00 5 Pump: Mario Cit** (5925946) **5.15 5 Pump: Syth 96** (9839474) **5.30 Countdown** (217) **6.00 Newyddion** (954507) **6.15 Heno** (465014) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (876675) **7.25 4D** (885548) **8.00 Syrffio** (2491) **8.30 Newyddion** (1526) **9.00 Pawb Al Fam** (378101) **9.45 The Long Johns** (121878) **10.00 Brookside** (90491) **10.30 Mark Thomas Comedy** (951439) **11.05 The Girlie Show** (720656) **11.55 T.F.I. Friday** (724762) **1.00am Beavis and Butt-Head** (65057) **1.30 Film: The Romantic Englishwoman** (75945347)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 am Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (s) (5625385)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (39965)
9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (r) (s) (3700472) **9.25 Blossom in Paris** (r) (s) (62328149) **11.10 The Adventures of Tintin** (r) (3840304) **11.35 The Pink Panther Show** (r) (6785946)
12.00 Gardens Without Borders (r) (Teletext) (s) (99762)
12.30pm Sesame Street (s) (18588) **1.30 Camberwick Green** (r) (26304) **2.00 Pete Smith's Specialties** (38844410)
2.15 FILM: Whirlpool (1939 b/w) starring Gene Tierney, Richard Conte, José Ferrer and Barbara O'Neil. A hypnotist comes to the aid of a kleptomaniac, but his actions have sinister motives. Directed by Otto Preminger (Teletext) (525762)
4.00 Backdate (r) (Teletext) (781) **4.30 Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (985) **5.00 Island of Dreams** (r) (Teletext) (s) (2014)
6.00 T.F.I. Friday with Chris Evans and guests, including Ewan McGregor, Jarvis Cocker, Patsy Kensit, Lenny Kravitz, Terrorvision and Echobelly. (s) (35052)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (874033)
7.55 Book Choice. Douglas Kennedy reviews Nick Leeson's *Rogue Trader* (Teletext) (s) (191656)
8.00 Gardens Without Borders. (Teletext) (s) (2491)
8.30 Brookside. Jimmy has a change of heart and Terry decides he needs a change of career (Teletext) (s) (1526)
9.00 Cybill. Cybill becomes convinced that her daughter, Zoey, is cursed with bad luck when things immediately begin to go wrong for Ira when Zoey moves in with him. Includes a guest appearance by Rob Reiner (Teletext) (s) (2236)
9.30 Rising Damp. When Rigsby's new tenant claims to be a mystic, everyone in the house is captivated. Starring Leonard Rossiter (r) (Teletext) (47897)
10.00 Roseanne. Roseanne and Jackie offer a lift to a young woman musician and reminisce about the sexist male bands of their past. (Teletext) (s) (90491)



Funny man Mark Thomas (10.30pm)

10.30 The Mark Thomas Comedy Product. A new six-week comedy series (Teletext) (s) (951439)
11.05 The Girlie Show (s) (720656)
11.55 T.F.I. Friday (r) (s) (724762)
1.00am Beavis and Butt-Head. Animation and music videos (s) (65057)
1.30 FILM: The Romantic Englishwoman (1975) starring Glenda Jackson, Michael Caine, Helmut Berger and Kate Nelligan. A comedy of manners about a woman whose infidelity with a mysterious German starts off malicious marital warfare with her English novelist husband. Directed by Joseph Losey. (Teletext) (75945347) Ends at **3.40.**

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg and Soldiers (81526) **8.00** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (49781) **8.30** Press Your Luck (3916890) **9.00** Love Connection (6652897) **9.25** Court TV (4836033) **9.50** Oprah Winfrey (4531439) **10.40** Jeopardy! (1254491) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (6979507) **12.00** Beechy (56946) **1.00pm** The Waltons (75694) **2.00** Geraldo (46781) **3.00** Court TV (8781) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (6045781) **4.15** Undun (2717014) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (9033) **6.00** The Simpsons (9439) **6.30** Jeopardy! (3491) **7.00** LAPD (5502) **7.30** M*A*S*H (9675) **8.00** Just Kidding (9410) **8.30** Coppers (5217) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (92385) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (95472) **11.00** Melrose Place (79507) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (2587279) **12.45am** The Untouchables (5980057) **1.30** In Living Color (12960) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix Long Play (3606124)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (3472897) **9.30** Century (18101) **10.30** ABC Nightline (26830) **1.30pm** CBS News (92875) **2.30** CBS News: The Morning Part II (13597) **3.30** The Lords (1897) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (98588) **7.30** Sportsline (19255) **8.30** The Entertainment Show **11.30** CBS Evening News (63217) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (58850) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (54705) **2.30** Sky Worldwide Report (76502) **3.30** The Lords (88347) **4.30** CBS Evening News (93182) **5.30-6.00** ABC World News (22163)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am A Woman Rebels (1936) (34128781) **7.45 I Remember Mama** (1948) (80452586) **10.00 Sweet Talker** (1991) (61255) **12.00 Clarence, the Cross-eyed Lion** (1965) (27858) **2.00pm The Vital Signs** (1990) (19052) **4.00 False Pretenses** (1995) (49651) **6.00 Sweet Talker** (1989) (97548) **8.00 The Ballad of Little Jo** (1993) (47043) **10.00 White Mile** (1994) (675255) **11.40 Fist of Justice** (1992) (5566679) **1.15am Mandingo** (1975) **3.20 The New Age** (1994) (26297569)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm The Trouble with Harry (1955) (93504743) **5.55 Buona Sera, Mrs Campbell** (1968) (16224439) **7.50 MacArthur** (1977) (22774985) **10.00 Betrayed** (1988) (20358033) **12.10am Peeping Tom** (1960) (189415) **1.55-3.35 Children of the Corn** (1984) (618078)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

8.00am September Affair (1950) (31694) **9.40 Aladdin and His Magic Lamp** (1985) (35575) **10.00 Ann Vickers** (1933) (89897) **12.00 North** (1994) (58826) **2.00pm Bride of Vengeance** (1949) (17694) **4.00 Aladdin and His Magic Lamp** (1985) (2507) **6.00 North** (1994) (37859) **7.30 UK Top Ten** (2385) **8.00 Taiwan: Tek Justice** (1994) (47025) **10.00 Penitentiae** (1993) (432472) **11.45 The Last Hit** (1993) (201502) **1.20am Running Cool** (1993) (367827) **3.10-5.10 The Adventures of the Flying Pickle** (1993) (57277231)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (82459217) **6.30 Fraggle Rock** (41385491) **7.00 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh** (77771745) **7.30 Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers** (92521043) **8.30 Cybersitter** (77614875) **10.00 FILM: The Jungle Book** (80939014) **11.30 Ducktales** (88906859) **12.00 Ducktales** (15784120) **12.30pm Quack Attack** (40684946) **1.00 Quack Attack** (78121287) **1.30 FILM: One Little Indian** (93644528) **3.00 Dinosaurs** (10949043) **3.30 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh** (88981236) **4.00 Quack Attack** (88947743) **4.30 Ducktales** (88978255) **5.00 Cybersitter** (52224656) **5.30 Stick with Me, Kid** (41909762) **7.30 Hollywood Lives** (88947656) **8.00 FILM: Walt Disney's the Jungle Book** (53543023) **9.15-10.00 The Making of Operation Dumbo Drop** (94636217)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Snowboarding (10878) **8.00 Alpine Skiing** (19679) **8.30 Live Alpine Skiing** (94526) **10.00 Bobsleigh** (88052) **11.30 Eurolun** (65471) **12.00 Skiing** (83092217) **12.45pm Tennis** (4072174) **2.00 Tennis** (647472) **5.00 Live Nordic Combined Skiing** (4349491) **6.15 Ski Jumping** (303474) **7.00 Tennis** (343897) **7.15 Live Tennis** (94765199) **9.30 Alpine Skiing** (60697) **10.00-12.30am Tennis** (784858)

SKY SPORTS

8.00am Australia v Kenya: Cricket World Cup (9778859) **11.30 Rugby Union** (14033) **12.00 Skiff Sailing** (27694) **12.30pm Powerboat World** (55965) **1.00 Rugby Club** (43120) **2.00 Snooker: The International Open** (552304) **5.00 Wrestling** (1946) **6.00 Sports Centre** (30856) **7.00 Snooker: The International Open** (1829859) **10.30 Cricket World Cup** (91439) **12.00 Sports Centre** (22692) **1.00-3.00am Schoolboy Football** (89992) **3.45 Pakistan v UAE: Cricket World Cup — Live** (41828502)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm England v Northern Ireland: Victory Shield Schoolboy Football (3667304) **9.00 Ford Scorpio Golf: USA** (8443588) **11.00 Trans World Sport** (3683586) **12.00 Skiff Sailing** (4888502) **12.30-1.00am Powerboat World** (6717298)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living World 5.00 Kenneth Copeland 5.30 Kidz TV 5.45 General Christian Entertainment 6.15 Colin Dye/Wake Up Europe 6.45-7.00 Music

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5889694) **7.55 As the World Turns** (3039507) **8.50 Peyton Place** (24857591) **9.20 Days of Our Lives** (97005588) **10.10-11.00 Another World** (5055410)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (2761946) **11.30 American Vacation** (5197217) **12.30pm The Restaurant Show** (5429615) **1.00 Around the World... In 30 Minutes** (3686439) **1.30 The Shotley Peninsula** (8879156) **2.00 E Report** (83222217) **2.30 Cruising the Globe** (1981323) **3.00 Getaway** (83340052) **3.30-4.00 Kids Down Under** (1993169)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Weapons of War: Helicopters (27855526) **5.00 Mysteries of the Bible: Jesus in the Galilee** (8325304) **6.00-7.00 Biography: Henry Ford** (48799976)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Swamp Thing (1139927) **1.30 The Ray Bradbury Theatre** (3806873) **2.00 FILM: The Monster That Challenged the World** (9052453) **3.30-4.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents** (5827163)



Edmund Gwenn and Shirley MacLaine (Sky Movies Gold, 4.00pm)

TLC

9.00am True Romance (1482439) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (4850149) **10.00** Two's Country (8825762) **10.30** Our House (1471323) **11.00** The Parent House (5011491) **11.30** Running Repairs (5012120) **12.00** Julia Child (1462675) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (4854965) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (6035110) **1.30** On the Edge (4853236) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (1226946) **2.30** The Secret Gardens (1261781) **3.00** Two's Country (1236761) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1273526)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (9380267) **7.30** Neighbours (4130584) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (1481948) **8.30** EastEnders (1460217) **9.00** The Bill (1494897) **9.30** The Sullivans (4852507) **10.00** Bergerac (8730548) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (8635192) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (1454033) **12.30pm** Neighbours (4856325) **1.00** EastEnders (6127888) **1.30** The Bill (4855694) **2.00** The Sullivans (1226304) **2.30** Get Some In! (1270439) **3.00** Angels (1247436) **3.30** Eldorado (1242656) **4.00** Casualty (45428859) **5.05** Larry Grayson (83426507) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (4286188) **6.25** EastEnders (7023743) **7.00** Eldorado (1222120) **7.30** The Last Song (1251304) **8.00** The Best of Top of the Pops (6881491) **10.00** The Bill (4626675) **10.35** KYTV (1025878) **11.05** FILM: Cadillac Man (86177120) **1.35am** The Hound of the Baskervilles (68243589) **2.05-3.05** Shopping (7195347)

TCC

6.00am Barney and Friends (27410) **6.30** Tiny TCC Special (15101) **7.00** Pugwall's Summer (53859) **7.30** Hang Time (65694) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (51675) **8.30** The Tick (50946) **9.00** Earthworm Jim (74526) **9.30** Eek the Cat (89217) **10.00** Garfield and Friends (39781) **10.30** Oscar's Orchestra (63410) **11.00** Art Attack (7720120) **11.15** Dash of the Day (7710743) **11.30** Hang Time (58491) **12.00** Degrassi Junior High. (54782) **12.30pm** Where's Wally (82033) **1.00** Pink Panther (45830) **1.30** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (81304) **2.00-5.00** Earthworm Jim (544410)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Banana Sandwich (40859) **7.00** Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (34007) **7.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (16052) **8.00** Wishbone (22149) **8.30** Rude Dog & the Dweebs (14120) **9.00** Grimmy (33382) **9.30** Clarissa (42491) **10.00** Rugrats (89410) **10.30** Aaahhh!!! Real Monsters (40866) **11.00** Rocko (11946) **11.30** Doug (12875) **12.00** Sister Sister (25236) **12.30pm** Pete & Pete (53507) **1.00** Capital Critters (84548) **1.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (52878) **2.00** Wishbone (91011) **2.30** Rude Dog & the Dweebs (5878) **3.00** Count Duckula (8236) **3.30** Mighty Max (4633) **4.00** Rugrats (9830) **4.30** Tales of the Crypkeeper (5014) **5.00** Sister Sister (3781) **5.30** Oddyssey III (9694) **6.00** Ren & Stimpy (6507) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (7859)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1252033) **4.30** Lifeboat (1258217) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (1240526) **5.30** Terra X (1272897) **6.00** Where Cannibals Roam (1262410) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (9781859) **7.30** Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious World (1259946) **8.00** Jurassica 2 (8885217) **9.00** Wings (6898781) **10.00** Classic Wheels (6808168) **11.00-12.00** SAS Australia (9180089)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Carlton Brown of the FO (8832052) **2.00pm** The Saint (8820217) **3.00** Zoo Gang (5010762) **4.00** FILM: The Face of Fu Manchu (1236323) **6.00** Danger Man (1266236) **6.30** The Gossip Show (9778385) **7.30** The Green Hornet (1246472) **8.00** The Saint (6872743) **9.00** UFO (6892507) **10.00-12.00** FILM: The Masque of the Red Death (5019033)

PARAMOUNT

12.00 FILM: Carlton Brown of the FO (8832052) **2.00pm** The Saint (8820217) **3.00** Zoo Gang (5010762) **4.00** FILM: The Face of Fu Manchu (1236323) **6.00** Danger Man (1266236) **6.30** The Gossip Show (9778385) **7.30** The Green Hornet (1246472) **8.00** The Saint (6872743) **9.00** UFO (6892507) **10.00-12.00** FILM: The Masque of the Red Death (5019033)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (7388255) **7.00** Kilroy (7486491) **8.00** Esther (8448007) **8.30** Embroidery (9896548) **9.00** Madhur Jaffrey's Indian Cookery (3228453) **9.35** Kate & Allie (2225859) **10.05** Jerry Springer (8809014) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8796743) **11.55** Food and Drink (7272033) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (2596679) **1.25** Crosswits (6213410) **2.00** Agony Hour (1858471) **3.00** Lesley's Budget Banquets (7809149) **3.30** Looking Good with Amanda (9533694) **4.00** Infatuation UK (9512101) **4.30** Crosswits (6567781) **5.05** Lingo (84480471) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (6532965) **6.00** Bewitched (3659978) **6.30** On the Bed with Paula (6600323) **7.05** Tastes of Wales (6818120) **7.40** The Joker's Wild (3126120) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (1172859) **9.00** FILM: Do You Know the Muffin Man? (21611694) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (2354453) **11.00** Watching Watching — the Uncensored Version (7958410) **11.30-12.00** More Sex Life (6808976)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Escape from Jupiter (6897) **5.30** Adventures of Tintin (758859) **5.55** Batman (324188) **6.30** Catchphrase (3675) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (6033) **7.30** Jake and the Kid (75859

هكذا في الاصل

Quarter-final place all but secured

England win lacks ring of confidence

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

PESHAWAR (England won toss): England (2pts) beat Holland by 49 runs

IN A World Cup that has already emphasised the gulf between the grades of world cricket, England yesterday contrived to give moral support to the cause of the underdog. They beat the part-timers of Holland with some comfort, though with no style, and while those at home wait impatiently for England to play to their potential, the nagging suspicion is growing that this is as good as it gets.

To assess where the credit lay in this game one had only to listen to the captains afterwards. Steven Lubbers, the Dutchman who has waited until his 43rd year for the chance to play in a World Cup, took the opportunity for a speech on the evident virtues of encouraging the minor nations, while Michael Atherton's insistence that England still aim to finish top of the their group sounded hollow and defensive.

England's remaining group games, against South Africa and Pakistan, are spread over ten days, and on available form they cannot be fancied to win either. The ludicrous format of this competition, however, decrees that they can reach the knockout stages without beating another Test country, and this win yesterday is almost certainly their somewhat shabby passport to the last eight.

Atherton bridled at the suggestion that he might have been anxious at any stage of the game, and he was entitled to do so. England were never in danger of defeat, but more than once they were at risk of embarrassment. The eventual margin of 49 runs satisfied honour all round, though if Atherton is as content with his team's performance as he professed to be, he is suffering a dangerous delusion.

Only two of the main batsmen, Graeme Hick and Graham Thorpe, are in tolerably good form, and it was their partnership of 143 that ensured respectability yesterday. Alec Stewart and Atherton himself remain painfully out of touch, and the captain's assertion that "my time will come" was another empty promise.

Atherton is doing himself and his team no favours by the apparently altruistic gesture of dropping down the order, ostensibly to break up the three left-handers. What Atherton does best, and what England need him to do, is anchor the innings. Stewart does not look up to the job. They should exchange roles immediately.

Nor do the problems end with the batting. While the fielding showed improvement here, only two searching, technical chances going astray, some of the seam bowling was misdirected and undisciplined. Darren Gough's lack of control is a serious concern but Dominic Cork was equally culpable yesterday, conceding 52 off eight overs and bowling an unacceptable seven extra balls through wides and no-balls. Richard Illingworth, the latest sickness casualty, was sorely missed.

That the Dutch have not come here with inflated expectations has been as obvious from observing them around the hotel, where they seem to be forever sitting down to another convivial meal, as it was from their first offerings yesterday. Paul-Jan Bakker and Roland Lefebvre have, in their time, been effective county bowlers, but Bakker is now a portly, balding 38-year-old and Lefebvre, though five years younger, hobbles through every spell because of a chronic groin injury.

Bakker, however, quickly accounted for Stewart, who had already been beaten four times during a brief and hapless stay, and when Neil Smith, the pinch-hitter, chipped to mid-wicket for a breezy 31, England were in need of retrenchment. Indeed, if Lubbers, stretching at mid-off, had done better than parry a drive from Hick with the score of 48, the day might have taken a different course.

Instead, the third-wicket stand grew without further alarm. Thorpe easily outscoring Hick, whose conservative approach and tentative running suggested he was still unsure of the hamstring he strained eight days earlier. Thorpe's 89, equalling his highest one-day score, was made from 82 balls, and he wasted very few of them. "He was my man of the match," the manager, Raymond Illingworth, said.

Predictably, however, the match award went to Hick, who completed his second one-day international century in the final over of the innings by hitting Bakker over long-on and into the most populated section of a ground now holding about 6,000, having echoed emptily at start of play.

England's total was at least 20 short of what they might have expected, even on such a lifeless pitch, but Holland's pursuit was immediately punctured when Nolan Clarke, the 47-year-old Barbadian, was leg-before without scoring to Cork's seventh ball.

Peter Cantrell, who once took two catches as substitute fielder for Australia in an Ashes Test match, and Tim de Leede struck the ball sweetly but Holland lost four wickets inside the first 18 overs. "I knew we would win from there," Atherton said.

It was not done, however, without a degree of indignity, as two students put on 114 for the fifth wicket. Klaas van Noortwijk and Bas Zuiderent, who is still at school, played chancelessly for 27 overs and gave England an unrewarding end to the day.

WILLS WORLD CUP 1996

Sri Lanka's optimism 36
World Cup Extras 36



A pull for six off Bakker's bowling takes Hick to his century against Holland

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

A J Stewart b Bakker ..... 5 (11min, 13 balls)
N M K Smith c Clarke b Jansen ... 31 (38min, 33 balls, 5 fours)
G A Hick not out ..... 104 (170min, 133 balls, 2 sixes, 6 fours)
G P Thorpe lbw b Lefebvre ..... 89 (91min, 82 balls, 1 six, 7 fours)
*M A Atherton b Lubbers ..... 10 (19min, 10 balls)
N H Fairbrother not out ..... 24 (31min, 29 balls, 1 four)
Extras (lb 12, w 4) 16
Total (4 wkts, 50 overs, 182min) . 279

†R C Russell, D G Cork, P A J DeFreitas, D Gough and P J Martin did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11 (Smith 6), 2-42 (Hick 6), 3-185 (Hick 58), 4-212 (Hick 75)

BOWLING: Lefebvre 10-1-40-1 (3 fours; 6-1-13-0, 2-0-14-1, 2-0-7-0); Bakker 8-0-46-1 (w 4; 1 six, 3 fours; 4-0-18-1, 3-0-15-0, 1-0-13-0), Jansen 7-0-40-1 (1 six, 4 fours, 5-0-20-1, 2-0-20-0); Aponso 8-0-55-0 (1 six, 5 fours; 6-0-36-0, 2-0-19-0); Lubbers 10-0-51-1 (2 fours; 8-0-28-0, 4-0-23-1); De Leede 2-0-9-0 (one spell); Cantrell 5-0-26-0 (2 fours; 2-0-13-0, 3-0-13-0).

HOLLAND

N E Clarke lbw b Cork ..... 0 (8min, 6 balls)
P E Cantrell lbw b DeFreitas ..... 28 (49min, 44 balls, 4 fours)
T B M de Leede lbw b DeFreitas .. 41 (70min, 42 balls, 7 fours)
*S W Lubbers c Russell b DeFreitas 9 (17min, 8 balls, 1 four)
K J van Noortwijk c Gough b Martin 64 (99min, 82 balls, 2 sixes, 3 fours)
B Zuiderent c Thorpe b Martin ..... 54 (99min, 93 balls, 2 fours)
R P Lefebvre not out ..... 11 (25min, 14 balls)
†M Schewe not out ..... 11 (14min, 13 balls, 1 four)
Extras (lb 4, w 6, nb 2) 12
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs, 194min) . 230

G J A F Aponso, F Jansen and P-J Bakker did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (Cantrell 0), 2-46 (De Leede 16), 3-70 (De Leede 31), 4-81 (Van Noortwijk 1), 5-196 (Zuiderent 47), 6-208 (Lefebvre 3)

BOWLING: Cork 8-0-52-1 (nb 4, w 4; 5 fours; 5-0-27-1, 3-0-25-0; DeFreitas 10-3-31-3 (3 fours; one spell); Smith 8-0-27-0 (2 fours; 2-0-10-0, 6-0-17-0); Gough 3-0-23-0 (4 fours; 2-0-20-0, 1-0-3-0); Martin 10-1-42-2 (w 1; 1 six, 2 fours; 6-1-18-0, 4-0-26-2); Hick 5-0-23-0 (1 six, 1 four; one spell); Thorpe 6-0-28-0 (one spell).

England won by 49 runs.

Match award: G A Hick.

Umpires: S A Buckner (West Indies) and K T Francis (Sri Lanka). Reserve umpire: Anil Sarkar (Kenya).

Referee: J R Reid (New Zealand).

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

Mason to make debut for Ireland after shake-up

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SIMON MASON, the Orrell full back who started this rugby union season as a member of the Irish Students squad, will make his international debut in the five nations' championship on March 2, when Ireland play Wales at Lansdowne Road in the battle to avoid the wooden spoon.

Though the only newcomer, Mason is part of a complete reconstruction of the team which went into the championship with such high hopes. Three of the backs and three of the forwards put to the sword by France last weekend have been cast aside, though in two instances — the concussion suffered by Jim Staples and the suspension for foul play handed to Peter Clohessy — change is enforced.

Mason, 22, and a student in building and surveying at Leeds Metropolitan University, takes the place of Staples, and the captaincy passes to Niall Hogan on what may be a long-term basis. Hogan, recalled against the French after being unavailable earlier in the season, did not have the best of games at scrum half, but his leadership qualities have already been recognised, uniquely in Irish rugby, at school, student, Under-21 and A level.

However, the Irish selectors have called a three-line whip this weekend for training, which will remove David Humphreys from the London Irish team to play West Hartlepool in the Pilkington Cup quarter-final at Sunbury tomorrow. In addition, Northampton will lose Jonathan Bell and Allen Clarke from their long-delayed league match at Moseley.

There could be no greater contrast between the two teams who have yet to win in this season's championship: Ireland, defeated by Scotland and France, make eight changes, including two positional ones, and even so experienced a player as Nick Popplewell was under threat. Wales — for only the fifth time in their history — keep an unchanged side for the third successive game, despite having lost to England and Scotland.

Ieuan Evans will win his sixtieth cap, while perennial speculation over the position of stand-off half has proved wide of the mark: Arwel Thomas deservedly retains the jersey ahead of Neil Jenkins and may also approach the Irish game in a far more settled frame of mind after agreeing a three-year contract which will keep him at Bristol.

Derek Brown, the Bristol chairman, hopes to have agreed a dozen contracts over the next month but, by announcing the agreement with Thomas, effectively hangs out a "hand-off" notice to such as Harlequins, whose interest in the young Welshman has been widely acknowledged. "I accept there might be more lucrative offers available but I am anxious to commit myself to the Bristol club," Thomas said.

IRELAND: S Mason (Orrell); S P Geoghegan (Bath), J C Bell (Northampton), M J Field (Malone), N K P J Woods (Blackrock College); D G Humphreys (London Irish), N A Hogan (Terenure College, captain); N J Popplewell (Newcastle), A T H Clarke (Northampton), P S Wallace (Blackrock College), D S Corkery (Cork Constitution), G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution), J W Davidson (Dungannon), W D McBride (Malone), V C P Costello (St Mary's College). Replacements: K P McQuillin (Bective Rangers), P A Burke (Cork Constitution), C Severinsutto (Sale), P S Johns (Dungannon), H D Harley (Old Wesley), T J Kingston (Dolphin).

WALES: W J L Thomas (Llanelli); I C Evans (Llanelli), L B Davies (Neath), N G Davies (Llanelli), W T Proctor (Llanelli), A C Thomas (Bristol), R Howley (Bridgend); A L P Lewis (Cardiff), J M Humphreys (Cardiff, captain), J D Davies (Neath), E W Lewis (Cardiff), G O Llewellyn (Neath), D Jones (Cardiff), R G Jones (Llanelli), H T Taylor (Cardiff). Replacements: G Thomas (Bridgend), N R Jenkins (Pontypridd), A P Moore (Cardiff), S Williams (Neath), L Mustoe (Cardiff), G R Jenkins (Swansea).

Referee: D Mene (France)

The vote of confidence from the national selectors may also encourage him to express himself more, ball in hand.

☐ The 24 players in the Welsh national squad have signed playing contracts with the WRU, which means that the players will now receive a basic retainer of £5,000 to cover the period between January and the autumn of this year. The 21 players who participate in each of the seven internationals in that period will receive a match fee and win bonuses, which could take payments to a minimum of £19,000.

Paying the penalty, page 37
Clement Freud, page 37

Swansea seek stability with Molby

BY DAVID MADDOCK

JAN MOLBY has ended his 11-year association with Liverpool by accepting an offer to become the player-manager of struggling Swansea City. The Denmark international cannot hold out much hope for a similar length of tenure with his new football club, given that he is the fifth man to take the helm at the Vetch Field this season.

Technically, in fact, it is six, as the man he replaced, Jimmy Rimmer, the caretaker-manager, served two terms in that particular role. Molby will be hoping that he survives a little longer than one of his more remarkable predecessors, Kevin Cullis, who was plucked from coaching Cradley Town's youth team. He survived just seven days.

Instability at the top is to blame for much of the bizarre activity at Swansea, with Doug Sharpe being replaced briefly, as chairman by businessman Kevin Thompson before returning to appoint Molby. Sharpe believes that the appointment of Molby, 32, will herald a new era for the club. "Jan's arrival will give us a period of stability after what has gone before, and we are confident he will give us success," Sharpe said.

Molby will have to act quickly. Swansea are second from bottom in the Endsleigh Insurance League second division. "I've been brought here mainly as a player and I believe I can make a big impact on the field. I will not give any guarantees, but I have not come to manage a third-division team," he said.

The future of Brighton and Hove Albion is again clouded in doubt, following a recommendation by East Sussex County Council to reject their plans for a new £32 million stadium to be built at Toads Hole Valley. Brighton have sold their Goldstone Road ground for £7.4 million, and hoped that moving would wipe out their £6 million debt.

But it depends on planning permission, and for the development of their own stadium into a giant food hall by the purchasers, Chartwell. Both applications for planning permission will ultimately be considered by Hove Council but if, as now seems likely, they are turned down Brighton will be facing extinction.



Molby: new player-manager

Everton yesterday announced a new four-year contract with Umbro, the sports kit manufacturer, worth £20 million. There was not the usual fanfare surrounding such activity however, as the parties had forgotten to inform the media of the conference to announce the deal.

Mark Fish, the South Africa defender, is unlikely to sign for Manchester United after cutting short his two-week visit to Old Trafford. Fish flew out after just 24 hours for talks with Lazio, of Italy.

Oldham have approached Liverpool with a request to take Ian Rush on loan. Gary Speed, the Leeds midfield player, underwent an operation on a fractured cheek-bone last night.

Watford harmony, page 38

Ballesteros at home in captain's role

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE worst-kept secret in golf was officially confirmed without any last-minute hitches yesterday when Severiano Ballesteros accepted the offer of the captaincy of the Europe team for the Ryder Cup match at Valderrama, Spain, in September 1997. The Ryder Cup committee did not take long to decide that Ballesteros was the man for the job, even though some members of the committee had been concerned at the way Ballesteros had appeared to breach committee procedure by talking openly about the captaincy before it was formally offered to him.

Ballesteros, who played in his first Ryder Cup in 1979 and has played in every one since 1983, becomes the first captain from mainland Europe. "My hope is the Ryder Cup in Spain will be the best in all aspects of sports events," Ballesteros said. "I want the hundreds of millions of viewers to enjoy the match and for the spectators who come to support us in Spain to enjoy being in my country."

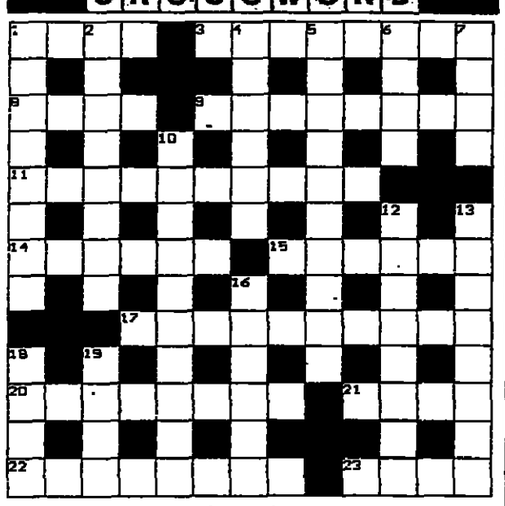
Ballesteros will bring a rare competitive edge to the captaincy because no event seems to excite him as much as the biennial competition against the United States. He has won 22½ points out of a possible 37 in the matches in which he has played. Whether Ballesteros will be the first playing captain since Arnold Palmer in 1963, or a non-playing captain, will not be decided until next summer.

"I have not ruled out being a playing captain," Ballesteros said. "In fact, my desire and hope is that I will be playing well enough to take on both roles. I will make this decision in July next year and it will be taken entirely on what I consider to be best for the team. If I am playing well and I have qualified then I will probably play. If not, I won't. If I am the playing captain, the exact details as to who will directly assist me at Valderrama will be worked out once I have taken my decision, not before."

If Ballesteros qualifies for the team but decides he is not playing well enough to compete, the committee has agreed he will be able to select a third player to go with the two players selected under the existing system. Ballesteros referred to this as the captain's option.

"Seve has been the clear candidate, indeed the only candidate, and I am delighted he has accepted," Ken Schofield, executive director of the PGA European Tour, said. "He has taken five months off since the last match and I think he has cleared his mind. He will bring his inspirational qualities as captain just as he has as a player. He will be carrying the support of all the players."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 712

ACROSS
1 Tease; enticement (4)
3 Repeated mindlessly (8)
8 Large, rough-cut piece (4)
9 For better-off purchasers (8)
11 Magnifying equipment (10)
14 (Tawdry) foil-strip decoration (6)
15 A prophet; two OT books (6)
17 System of thought, beliefs (10)
20 Appreciation of one recently dead (8)
21 Crop, missile store (4)
22 Wagner festival town (8)
23 Keenly encourage (4)

DOWN
1 Huge monster (8)
2 Not guilty; several Popes (8)
4 Element, appearance (6)
5 Evaluate anew (10)
6 Mongrel; Yorkshireman (*slang*) (4)
7 Be very fond (4)
10 Generating station; energetic person (10)
12 Caterer (8)
13 Highland broadsword (8)
16 Bordeaux wine (6)
18 Uterus (4)
19 Neat; large (sum) (4)

The solution to 711 will be published Wednesday, February 28

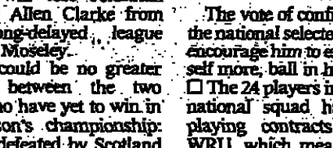
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